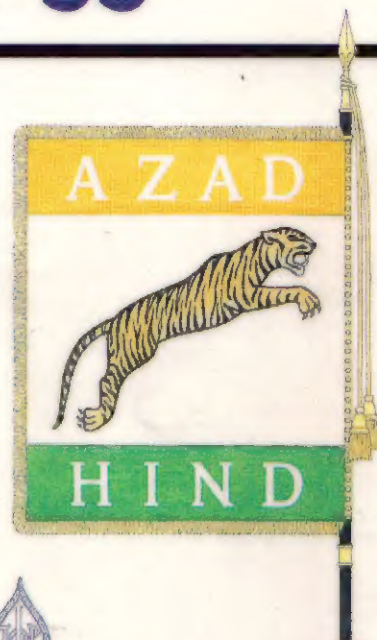
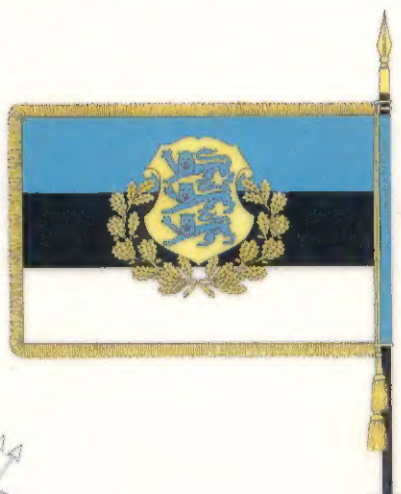


FLAGS OF THE THIRD REICH 2: WAFFEN-SS



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PREFACE

Readers are directed to MAA 270 *Flags of the Third Reich 1: Wehrmacht*, for general descriptive and explanatory material. As this book is primarily about flags, I have limited the historical background of units to a few basic facts, figures, dates, places and personalities. So much has already been published about the origins, development and history of the SS-Verfügungstruppe and the Waffen-SS that it is unnecessary to fork over ground that has already been well and truly ploughed; interested readers are directed to the Further Reading section at the end of the body text.

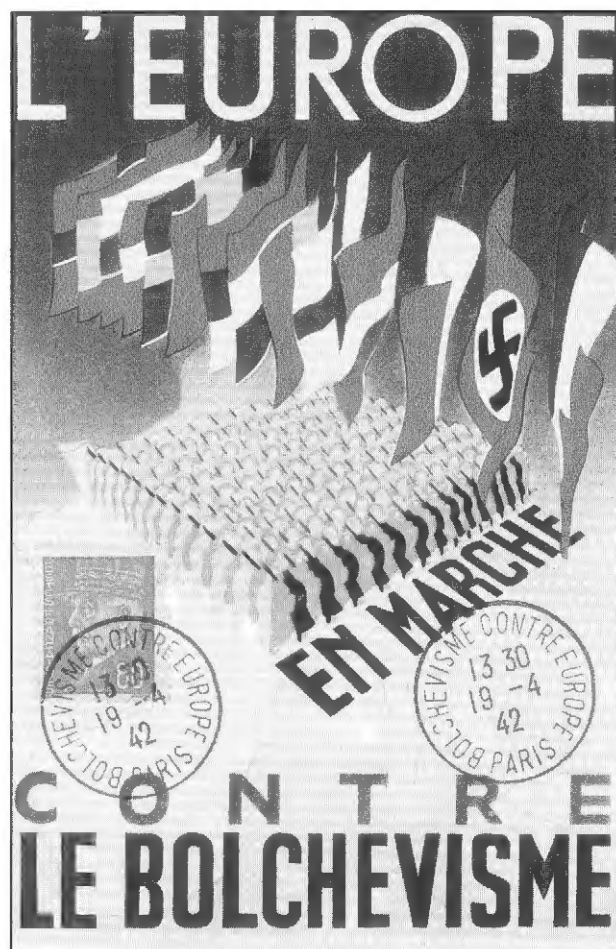
In the plate commentaries I have restricted myself to a brief examination of just one of the pre-war 'Deutschland Erwache' Standards – the Leibstandarte-SS 'Adolf Hitler', which was carried by the first of four SS Regiments. The other three pre-war SS-VT Regiments – SS-Standarte 'Deutschland', 'Germania', and 'Der Führer' – are only mentioned in passing. However, I have concerned myself with the special 'Führerstandart' pattern of the Standard, Flag and Guidon presented in 1941 to the Leibstandarte-SS 'Adolf Hitler'. By far the greater part of this work deals with the fascinating flags and standards used by non-German Foreign Volunteer formations.

When reading this book it will become apparent that some Colours are described in a great deal of detail whilst information on others is sparse. As with all flag research, it is imperative to try to trace surviving examples in order to examine them in detail. It is of great assistance to be able to research

the production specifications and the orders relating to their introduction. It helps if you can interview persons who may have actually handled these items, embroiderers and soldiers alike. Failing this, one must rely heavily upon contemporary illustrations and photographs and a lot of historical detective work. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to undertake all these methods of research, with varying degrees of success. However, I am the first to admit that errors may have crept into this text. I welcome constructive criticism that may be useful for future works, and I would be delighted to hear from anyone who knows the whereabouts or ultimate fate of any of these Colours.

A special propaganda postcard issued in France to commemorate the German-sponsored International Exposition 'March of Europe against Bolshevism' held in Paris, April 1942. The national flags featured on this card

are, reading from the right: France, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Finland, Roumania, Netherlands, Slovakia, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Bulgaria, Spain and Norway.



FOREIGN VOLUNTEER LEGIONS

During the Second World War the German propaganda machine attempted to depict Germany first as the representative of the New Order leading Europe against the decadent pluto-democracies and, later, after the attack on the USSR, as rallying the best elements of Europe in the defence of Western civilisation against Bolshevism.

An essential part of this propaganda was the raising of non-German volunteer contingents, variously named as 'Legions' and 'Free Corps', serving alongside the German forces primarily on the Eastern Front. These units were from their outset mere token forces, comparatively insignificant in numbers, and maintained chiefly for their propaganda value. As the war progressed Germany's manpower problems became more acute, and the practical contributions of non-Germans and German settlers outside the borders of the Reich became more important, although in the later stages of the war their propaganda value had worn thin.

In the early months of the Russian campaign, when the prospect of a reasonably quick victory was in sight, the German press made great play of the role of non-German volunteers in the anti-Bolshevik crusade. A good example of this, published in a German newspaper during September 1941, boasted

that: 'Aryan Man is realising already during this war the new concept of a just order of society and of fruitful co-operation. Fighting shoulder to shoulder against the Bolsheviks alongside the Germans are Finns, Norwegians, Danes, Dutchmen, Frenchmen, Spaniards, Croats, Italians, Hungarians, Roumanians, Slovaks, Swedes, Flemings, Walloons – in short, the whole of Europe. The stream of volunteers is endless.'

No mention was made here of the British contingent, doubtless because their contribution, small as it was, may have been misunderstood by the paper's readers. Also omitted were the Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians. All the volunteers that were mentioned came from German-occupied, neutral or Axis countries, none from countries that were still at war with Germany. Other volunteer Legions and foreign units existed, but many of these were formed of volunteers from countries outside the boundaries of Europe.

As the tide of battle turned relentlessly against the Germans and their volunteers, boasting like this became less aggressive, and the appeal for volunteers more desperate.

WALLOON VOLUNTEERS

The flags and banners used by the military units formed from Walloon volunteers had their roots in the Rexist Party of Belgium. Leon Degrelle, born in 1907, was the driving force behind the 'Christus Rex' movement launched in May 1935. So successful was he that within two years the Rexists had won 21 seats in the Belgian Lower House and eight in the Senate. However, it was reputed that the Rexists were being subsidised by Mussolini, and Degrelle's popularity declined; by 1939 his party retained only four seats.

The German invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939 precipitated the declaration of war against Germany by the British government. Eight months later the imminent threat to neutral Belgium resulted in Degrelle being taken into custody by the Belgian authorities out of fear that he was a 'fifth columnist', and he was deported to France on 10 May 1940. The

The Black Flag of the Walloon Legion.





Above: Reichsführer Himmler inspecting the Walloon Legion in June 1942, just before their transfer to the Waffen-SS. Leutnant Leon Degrelle is second from the left.

Right: The Walloon Legion Company Colours being

loaded into a railway wagon prior to the Legion's move to the front. The Unteroffizier wearing the steel helmet is John Hagemans, former Prévôt, or Leader, of the Jeunesse Légionnaire; he was later to be killed on the Eastern Front.



swift and successful German campaign against the Allied forces in the West resulted in Belgium, invaded on 10 May 1940, being overrun in 18 days. Degrelle was released by the Germans after the French Armistice and returned to Belgium in July 1940. It was not until a year later, however, that the Germans declared the Rexists to be the only political party permitted to function in Wallonia – the French-speaking area of the country. The German authorities attempted to persuade Belgians from both the French and Flemish speaking areas to volunteer for service in a number of German-sponsored paramilitary organisations, in particular the NSKK and the Labour Services (the Flemish ‘Vrijwillige Arbeidsdienst voor Vlaanderen’ and the Walloon ‘Service Voluntaire du Travail pour la Wallonie’). Many members of the Rexist Youth volunteered to serve in the French-speaking organisations; and in June 1941, at the time of the German invasion of Russia, Leon Degrelle called for volunteers to serve in the Walloon Legion that he had helped to form, and to participate in the ‘anti-Bolshevik crusade’.

The Legion Wallonie

The first 800 Rexist volunteers to serve in the Legion Wallonie (briefly known as the Corps Franc Wal-

lonie, but which was strictly a unit of the German Army and officially designated as Wallonische Infanterie Bataillon Nr.373) left Brussels on 8 August 1941 for Poland, where it underwent basic military training. Their departure from the Belgian capital was marked by a parade and speeches, and they carried a special Colour presented to them by Degrelle (see Plate C1).

The Legion first saw action on 2 November 1941. Between November 1941 and February 1942 the Legion carried out mopping-up operations in the rear of the German front; it was for a time attached to a Roumanian combat group, and later to the German 100th Gebirgsjäger Division. Degrelle himself served in this unit as a private, declining the German offer of an immediate commission on the grounds that he had no previous military experience.

The number of volunteers for this unit increased rapidly (8,000 in all after four years); Degrelle was promoted Gefreiter in February 1942, and shortly afterwards was wounded, promoted to Feldwebel, and awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class. In May 1942 he rose to become a Leutnant and was further decorated with the Iron Cross 1st Class.

The Legion at this time had been acting as a reserve unit of the German 68th Infantry Division, but was transferred to the 97th Gebirgsjäger Division. They became involved in heavy fighting, and in July were in action on the River Don opposite Stalingrad. Fortunately for the Legion they were then switched south to fight in the Caucasus, but here too the fighting was ferocious: in one action alone the Walloons lost 854 out of 1,000 men. Degrelle was amongst the casualties, being seriously wounded in the stomach, on his recovery he was promoted to Oberleutnant.

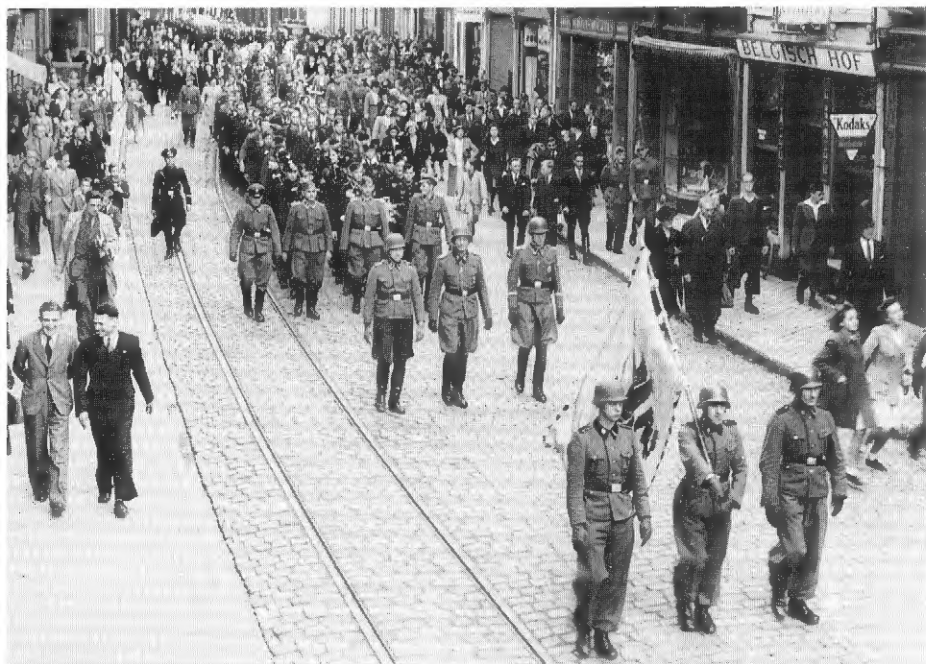
The use of the gold-fringed, black Colour with its red Bergundian ragged cross was an oddity within the German Army. Nothing else like it existed, and it is evident that after a time this special Colour was quietly laid to rest, although its fate, possible location, and the date of its withdrawal from use, are unknown.

SS-Sturmbrigade 'Wallonien' La Brigade d'Assaut Wallonie

To replace the first pattern black Colour new Colours were created by expert Belgian embroiderers. In total eight company Colours and two guidons, one each for the Brigade Staff and the Headquarters Company, were manufactured. All were of striking designs, and are the most interesting, heraldically, of all the flags



Above: A postcard sold throughout occupied Belgium to encourage recruiting into the Assault Brigade 'Wallonie'.



Led by a Colour party carrying the flag of the Flemish Legion, a fresh draft of recruits march through the streets of Brussels on their way to the railway station.

used by the various volunteer formations. These new Colours and guidons were presented to the Walloons two months after the Legion was transferred into the Waffen-SS. The date of 8 August 1943 was chosen for the presentation of these Colours to commemorate the day in 1941 when the Walloons had first volunteered for service with the German Army. Degrelle presented these Colours to his men.

On 1 June 1943 the battalion was enlarged and raised to the status of an 'assault brigade', and its troops transferred into the Waffen-SS. The unit was entitled SS-Sturmbrigade 'Wallonien', and referred to in French as 'La Brigade d'Assault Wallonie'. It served with the 5th SS-Panzer Division 'Wiking' in southern Ukraine; in January 1944 it took part in the battle of Cherkassy, where 1,360 of its 2,000 men were killed or wounded. Degrelle was promoted to SS-Sturmabführer and took over command of the brigade, replacing Lucien Lippert, who had been killed.

5.SS-Freiwilligen-Sturmbrigade 'Wallonien'

The survivors were withdrawn to the training area at Wildflecken in Franconia to rest and regroup; but events in Estonia overtook the Sturmbrigade. Re-designated as 5.SS-Freiwilligen-Sturmbrigade 'Wallonien', they were rushed to the northern front, where, in July 1944, they took part in the battle of

Narva. Once more the Walloons suffered heavy losses and the survivors were eventually pulled back, this time to Hannover-Braunschweig in northern Germany. On 20 February 1944 Degrelle had been awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross; and six months later, on 27 August 1944, Adolf Hitler personally conferred on him the Oak Leaves, a singular distinction for a foreign volunteer.

28.SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer-Grenadier-Division 'Wallonien'

Himmler, as head of the Replacement Army, made strenuous efforts to recruit Belgians working in Germany, and virtually press-ganged those Belgian collaborators who fled to Germany after the Allies liberated Belgium, in order to raise more fighting units. These, combined with the survivors from the destroyed Sturmbrigade, were used to re-build the unit, whose strength was expanded (on paper at least) to that of a division. On 18 September 1944 the new formation was announced as SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier-Division 'Wallonien', and the next month was given the number 28 in the Waffen-SS divisional sequence. In December the division was given a compliment of armoured vehicles when it was upgraded to an armoured infantry division, receiving the title 28.SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer-Grenadier-Division 'Wallonien'.

Selected Finnish volunteers representing the battalion take an oath of allegiance on their new Colour.



The newly raised division formed part of SS-Armee-Korps West, a 'paper' army corps consisting of three understrength foreign volunteer divisions – the Walloons, the Flemings and the French. The Walloons were once more flung against the Red Army in the fighting around Stettin, and once more suffered heavy casualties, their strength cut to little more than 700 men. By mid-April 1945 the survivors had been practically destroyed in the fighting on the west bank of the Oder. Leon Degrelle managed to make his way from Copenhagen to Norway, from where, on the day after the German capitulation of 7 May 1945, he was flown direct to Spain; his aircraft, low on fuel, crash-landed just inside Spanish territory. Exiled from his native Wallonia, and sentenced to death in absentia at Brussels on 12 December 1944, Degrelle continues to live in Spain to this day.

THE FLEMISH LEGION

SS-Standarte 'Westland'

No sooner had the Low Countries been overrun than Himmler began to seek recruits among the Flemish and Dutch populations to join his newly created SS-Regiment 'Westland'. Volunteers from Flanders and the Netherlands between the ages of 18 and 25 were to be trained for 'police duties', and were told they would operate within their own homelands. The recruiting response was good, and so many volunteers came forward to join the regiment that within weeks the unit had attained its full strength. However, the promise regarding policing their own homelands was not kept; during the winter of 1940–41 the 'Westland' Regiment was absorbed into the Waffen-SS as part of the 'Wiking' Division.

Freiwilligenstandarte 'Nordwest'

Encouraged by his success in recruiting for the SS-Standarte 'Westland', Himmler announced on 3 April 1941 the raising of a new regiment, the Volunteer Regiment 'Nordwest', of Germanic volunteers from Holland, Flanders and Denmark. Like its forerunner this regiment was officially intended for 'police purposes'. However the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 resulted in the regiment being



Legions-Sturmabführer Jonas Lie, commander of the 1st Norwegian Police Company, with

Reichsführer Himmler, reviewing his troops near Mitau, February 1943.

broken up and the bulk of the Flemish recruits, who formed the 1st, 6th and 8th Companies and who were still undergoing their training on the Hamburg training area, transferring into the Flemish Legion.

Freiwilligen Legion Flandern

When Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 there was an enthusiastic desire among the foreign volunteers to take an active part in the campaign. Shortly after the start of the invasion the formation of a Flemish Legion was announced, which resulted in a mass transfer of Flemings from the 'Nordwest' Regiment to the new Legion, the men of the former 1st, 6th and 8th Companies becoming the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Companies of the Legion.

Men between the ages of 17 and 40 could join the Legion without regard to political connections. Preference was given to Belgian ex-regular soldiers, especially NCOs and officers, who were promised a rank within the SS corresponding to their former rank. On 6 August 1941 the first draft of 405 Flemish volunteers paraded at the Palais des Beaux Arts in

Brussels. Here the Legion were presented with their own Colour (see Plate D1). They travelled to an SS training camp in Poland, where they joined their compatriots from the former 'Nordwest' Regiment.

By the end of September 1941 there were 875 Flemings undergoing training in Poland. Discipline in the SS-controlled Legion was a lot harsher than the Flemings had expected; the German 'equivalent ranks' did not materialise. They were not commanded, as they had expected, by Flemish officers; almost the entire Legion cadre being Germans and orders being given in German. Circumstances improved somewhat after numerous complaints about their treatment were presented to Himmler, who eased the restriction on the number of Flemish officers and NCOs and attempted to honour the 'equivalent ranks' promise.

By November 1941, by now judged battle-ready, the Legion was despatched to the Leningrad front as part of the 2nd SS Motorised Infantry Brigade. The Flemish Legion, which in almost every respect other than its name was a Waffen-SS unit, continued to fight in the East. In January 1942 it was badly mauled by a large-scale Russian counter-offensive. On 22 January the former commander of the Flemish Zwarte Brigade, Reimond Tollernaere, was killed at Kopsy, as was the commander of the Flemish SS, Rene Lagrou. In April 1942 Michael Lippert, the Legion's German commander, was badly wounded and his place was taken by SS-Obersturmbannführer Konrad Schellong, a German transferred from the Wiking Division.

SS-Freiwilligen-Sturmbrigade 'Langermarck'

The Legion continued on active service for another six months; in June 1942 it was pulled out of the line, but returned to the fighting in August 1942. Ten months later it was withdrawn from the front, and on 31 May 1943, whilst reorganising at Heidelager in Bohemia, it was transformed into the SS Volunteer Assault Brigade 'Langermarck' (sometimes referred to as the 6.SS-Freiwillige-Sturmbrigade 'Langermarck'). To bring it up to its required strength the

Flemish Assault Brigade was built around the 4.SS-Totenkopf Regiment, which had been awarded the honour title of 'Langermarck' on 20 April 1942 (Hitler's birthday), together with a fresh intake of volunteers from Flanders and the addition of a Finnish SS battalion. Commanded by SS-Obersturmbannführer Schellong, it was sent once more to fight the Soviets on the Ukrainian front. By July 1944 it had been moved to Estonia, and it was here that it took part in the battle at Narva – 'The Battle of the European SS'.

27.SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier-Division 'Langermarck' (flamische Nr.1)

By September 1944 most of Belgium had been liberated by the Allies. Many Flemings who had collaborated with the Germans joined them in their retreat rather than face their liberated countrymen. Those collaborators who were deemed physically fit were swiftly conscripted into the Waffen-SS; thus Himmler was able to raise the Flemish Assault Brigade to the nominal status of a Grenadier Division despite the fact it contained no more than 3,000 men. In December 1944 the so-called Division was sent back into the desperately worsening situation on the Eastern Front, where, in the closing months of the war, it was virtually annihilated.



The commander of the Finnish Volunteer Battalion (wearing helmet) accompanying the general officer commanding the

Gross Born training area (foreground) and Col. Walter Horn (wearing Finnish uniform).

NORWEGIAN VOLUNTEERS

On 29 June 1941, just a week after the Germans commenced their invasion of the Soviet Union, the Reichskommissar for Norway, Josef Terboven, announced that recruiting was under way for a Norwegian Legion. It was intended to be a completely Norwegian formation, organised on Norwegian military lines and led by Norwegian officers. Strenuous efforts were made throughout occupied Norway to attract volunteers to this new unit. Two regiments from the Hird – the ‘Viken’ 1st Regiment and the ‘Viking’ 7th Regiment – and men from the Norges-SS came forward in large numbers. Considerable success was achieved in the recruiting of Norwegian officers.



Freiwilligen Legion ‘Norwegen’

On 29 July 1941 the first draft of 300 Norwegians travelled to Germany followed, in mid-August, by a further 700 volunteers. They were joined at Hamburg by 62 volunteers from the Norwegian community resident in Berlin. By the end of 1941 the Legion had mustered 1,218 men. The unit was officially named *Freiwilligen Legion ‘Norwegen’* and was under the command of Major Jorgen Bakke. Two battalions were eventually raised, the 1st Battalion receiving the title ‘Viken’ in recognition of the original volunteers of the 1st Hird Regiment.

The Legion saw their first active service, albeit in a quiet sector on the Eastern Front, in February 1942 when, as part of the 2nd SS Motorised Infantry Brigade, they were put into the front line at Leningrad.

The Norwegian Police Companies

Further intensive recruiting in the summer of 1942 resulted in the raising of two additional companies, one made up largely from the *Arbeidstjenesten*, the Norwegian Labour Service, the other from the Police. The *Politikompagniet* was placed under the command of Jonas Lie. In September *Sturmabführer* Lie and his Police Company joined the rest of the Norwegian Legion outside Leningrad.

In March 1943 the survivors from the Legion were withdrawn from the front, and on 20 May the Norwegian Legion was officially dissolved.

FINNISH VOLUNTEERS

The Finns, like the Spaniards, were volunteers in the true sense of the word: neither Finland nor Spain had been occupied by the Germans. The men who came forward to fight alongside the *Wehrmacht* did so out of a conviction which burned brighter than with those volunteers from countries in the iron grip of German occupation.

SS-Obersturmbannführer Götze receives the SS-Heimwehr Danzig Colour

from the hand of Gauleiter Albert Forster at the Danziger Maifeld, 1939.

Finnisches Freiwilligen Bataillon der Waffen-SS

Finns were recruited into the Waffen-SS in sufficient numbers to form a 'Volunteer Battalion'; 125 officers, 109 NCOs and 850 other ranks arrived in Germany from Finland on 5 June 1941. The unit was to have been called 'Jägerbataillon', a reference to the Great War '27 Jägerbataillon' formed from Finnish volunteers in German service, but this title was rejected in favour of SS-Freiwilligen Bataillon 'Nordost' (SS Volunteer Battalion 'Northeast').

Some 400 of the Finns, all of whom had combat experience gained during the Winter War of 1939-40 against the Soviet Union, were attached to the SS-Division 'Wiking' and took part in the German invasion of Russia on 22 June 1941. The remainder were joined by fresh drafts from Finland at their training camp near Vienna.

No sooner had the name of this battalion been

chosen when, in September, it was changed to Finnisches Freiwilligen Bataillon der Waffen-SS. The battalion was presented with a Colour on 15 October 1941 at their German training area of Gross Born. In February 1942 the battalion was considered to be fully trained and was despatched to join the 'Wiking' Division fighting in the Caucasus. Here the men of the SS Volunteer Battalion joined with the Finns who had been serving with the SS Division since June 1941, forming the 3rd Battalion of the 'Nordland' Regiment.

June 1943 saw the expiry of the two-year engagement for which the original Finnish volunteers had enlisted, and the bulk of the battalion was sent back to Finland on leave. By this time the Finnish Government had realised that Hitler was not going to win the war, and so they took steps to discourage their young men from re-enlisting and returning to Germany. Consequently with so few volunteers left Himmler officially disbanded the battalion on 1 June 1943.

DANZIG VOLUNTEERS

The Danzig Home Defence Force

The Free City of Danzig, so described in the Treaty of Versailles, was formally proclaimed on 15 November 1920. The decision represented a compromise between the Polish demand for the cession to the new Polish state of the most convenient coastal outlet for Polish commerce, and the reluctance felt by the Peace Conference to place a city, 96% of whose population was German, under foreign sovereignty. The area of the Danzig territory was about 754 square miles and its population 407,000.

In October 1938 a 3rd Battalion of the 4th SS-Totenkopf Regiment was formed in Berlin-Adlershof commanded by SS-Obersturmbannführer Götze. On 24 August 1939 Gauleiter Albert Forster, the National Socialist leader in Danzig, was appointed head of state by a decree issued by the Danzig Senate



20 July 1941: the arrival of the first contingent of Danish volunteers at the SS barracks in Hamburg-

Langehorn. The flag of the Freikorps Danmark is carried by Kornet Mathey Wagner.



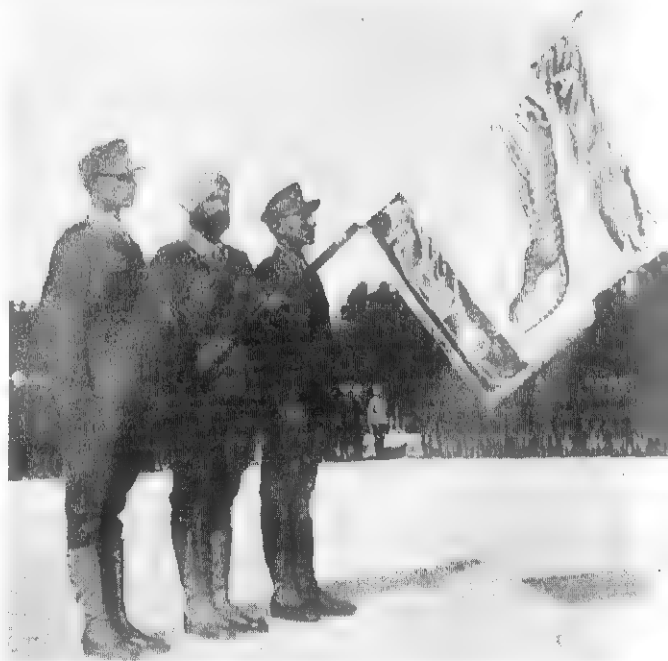
The first model LVF Colour, during the swearing-in parade held at the Legion's training area at Dembica, Poland, in autumn 1941.

Below: The 'Springing Tiger' Colour presented to the Azad Hind (Free India) Legion.

— a decree, which overturned the Danzig Constitution. By June 1939 both the Polish and foreign press were reporting the smuggling into Danzig of considerable quantities of arms and munitions both by sea and over the East Prussian frontier. There was a steady influx of German 'tourists' estimated at several thousands who, it was alleged, consisted mainly of German soldiers in mufti and members of the SA and SS who were being organised into a Danzig 'Freikorps'.

In the summer of 1939 the Danzig Senate decided to form a Home Defence Force and the responsibility for this was taken over by the Reichsführer-SS. In June 1939 the 3rd Totenkopf Battalion that had been formed in Berlin eight months earlier was transported to Danzig, where it was joined by the anti-tank Demonstration Company of the Totenkopf Regiments. By July 1939 the formation of the SS-Heimwehr Danzig was complete: it had a complement of 42 officers and approximately 1,500 men of whom 1,000 were German nationals and the rest came from Danzig.

Throughout November 1939 the unit saw action in and around Danzig, Gdingen and the Westerplatte. Shortly afterwards the Home Defence Force was disbanded and its personnel distributed as cadres for new Totenkopf units. With an existence of only



five months the SS-Heimwehr Danzig must have been one of the shortest-lived units in the history of the Waffen-SS; however, time was found for Gauleiter Forster to present a special Colour to the Commander of the Home Defence Force, Obersturmbannführer Götze.

DANISH VOLUNTEERS

Standarte 'Nordwest'

As with the other volunteers from Nordic countries, the first Danes were recruited into the SS-Verfügungstruppen Standarte 'Nordland'. By the spring of 1941 the flow of new recruits into both the SS-Standarte 'Westland' and 'Nordland' had slowed to a trickle, and Himmler decided to raise a new Volunteer Regiment named 'Nordwest' to be organised by, but not actually belonging to, the Waffen-SS. By August 1941 108 Danish volunteers were serving in this new regiment, the bulk of the troops being Dutch and Flemings. Standarte 'Nordland' had, by this time, been completely disbanded and its Danish personnel despatched to Hamburg.

Freikorps Danemark/Frikorps Danmark

Within a week of the German invasion of Russia on 22 June 1941 a proclamation issued by the Danish Government announced the raising of a Danish 'Frikorps' to fight alongside the Germans against the Soviets. Danes between the ages of 17 and 35 were recruited from amongst serving Danish military personnel and former soldiers who had completed their period of conscription between the years 1931

and 1941. They were also promised German ranks equivalent to their previous Danish ranks.

From the outset Free Corps 'Denmark' was classed as part of the Waffen-SS. Its first commanding officer was Lt. Col. P.C. Kryssing, previously an officer of the Danish artillery. On 19 July 1941 the first contingent of almost 500 men, many of them regular soldiers wearing Danish Army uniforms, left for Hamburg; there they were kitted out with Waffen-SS uniforms and formed the 1st Battalion of the Freikorps. A second battalion was raised in August that year from Danes of the previously disbanded Standarte 'Nordland', and from further volunteers recruited in Denmark. By the end of 1941 the strength of the Freikorps stood at 1,164 men. The name of the Corps was spelt both in the Danish language 'Frikorps Danmark' and in German 'Freikorps Danemark'. This difference in the spelling was a feature that appeared on the first pattern flag and on the various cuff-titles worn.

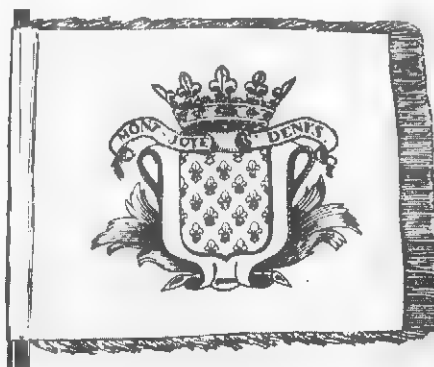
Initially the Freikorps possessed a flag which presumably had been presented to them on the occasion of the first Danish volunteers leaving for Germany. This consisted of the national flag of Denmark, the ancient Dannebrog, a white cross on a red field, within the canton two lines of white letters, 'Frikorps' above 'Danmark'. This flag was used by the Freikorps throughout their period in Germany, but on an unknown date they received another Colour. This was of a different design (not illustrated here), in that it was a square flag having a solid white 'croix patée' on a plain red field.

Colonel Kryssing, who had taken a dislike to what he saw as German interference in the handling of the Corps, was dismissed from his command by Himmler on 8 February 1942, and replaced by Count

A photograph taken directly from a German wartime magazine showing an artist's impression of the fanion for the 1st Battalion of the French Legion. This fanion displayed the Arms of the Isle-de-France, the Arms of St. Denis, the district of Paris from which Jacques Doriot came. Doriot was the founder and leader of the Parti Populaire Français, many of whose members had volunteered for the LVF; this fanion had been purchased by residents of St. Denis by public subscription.

The fanion had a blue field. The obverse displayed the Arms of St. Denis. The reverse had the

name of the Legion in full, arched over a central design consisting of a laurel wreath in the centre of which were displayed the heads of a blue cornflower, a white edelweiss and a red poppy.





Above: Men of the Blue Division somewhere on the Eastern Front, April 1943. The division's own Colour was the national flag of Spain.

Right: The Colour for the 2nd Battalion of the Spanish Regiment 'Pimental'. The bearer wears Spanish Army uniform, probably taken when the Blue Division volunteers were travelling from Spain to Germany for training.

Christian Frederick von Schalburg. The new commanding officer was a naturalised Dane born in the Ukraine, the son of wealthy parents of Baltic-German origin. He had served as a junior officer in the Royal Danish Life Guards, and in the Danish Battalion fighting the Russians in the 'Winter War' of 1939. He was National Youth Leader of the 'Danmarks National-Socialistiske Arbejder Parti' or DNSAP, and was one of the first volunteers for the newly raised SS-Standarte 'Nordland'. At the time of his appointment he was serving in the 'Wiking' Division on the Russian Front as an SS-Sturmabführer: he had already been awarded both the 2nd and 1st Class Iron Cross.

In March 1942, having been promoted to SS-Obersturmbannführer, von Schalburg took over command of the Freikorps and by May that year the Corps was ready for action. It was attached to the Waffen-SS 'Totenkopf' Division and took part in the action at Demjansk. During the unit's first action on 2 June 1942 von Schalburg was killed; his body was taken back to Denmark, where he was given an official state funeral. The next commander of the Freikorps lasted only nine days: Hans-Albert von Lettow-Vorbeck was killed on 11 June 1942. He was succeeded by Knud Borge Martinsen, who held command until the unit was disbanded in May 1943.



The Danish Free Corps was withdrawn to Denmark in September 1942 for a short period of rest and refitting, having lost 121 men. Sent back to the front in October 1942, the unit was finally withdrawn from active duty in April 1943 and sent to Grafenwöhr in Bavaria to rest and regroup, but in fact was officially disbanded.

SS-Grenadier-Regiment 1 'Danmark'

The reorganisation of the Waffen-SS in 1943 saw those Danish volunteers from the former Freikorps who still had time to serve, and others who wished to continue serving with the Germans, join their com-

patriots from Regiment 'Nordland' of the 'Wiking' Division in the newly raised, all-Danish Motorised Infantry Regiment 'Danmark', under the new commander Lt. Col. Graf Westphalen. The Danish unit was absorbed into the recently formed 11.SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer-Grenadier-Division 'Nordland'.

SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 24 'Danemark' (danisches Nr.1)

This motorised infantry regiment was later upgraded to an armoured infantry regiment, bearing the title SS-Panzer-Grenadier Regiment 'Danmark'; and after January 1944 it was entitled SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 24 'Danemark' (danisches Nr.1). Although supposed to be a single-nationality formation, the regiment was actually composed of some 40% Danes, 25% Germans and the rest Volksdeutsche, mainly from Roumania.

The Danish regiment of the 'Nordland' Division saw their first combat in September 1943 when the division took part in anti-partisan actions in Yugoslavia. Later the division was sent to the Eastern Front, where it was engaged for the remainder of the war.

The very last days of the war saw the 1st Battalion of the 'Danmark' Regiment and Regiment

'Norge' detached from the 'Nordland' Division and sent to join the racially mixed 'Wiking' Division.

Schalburg-Korps

Survivors who had returned to Denmark when the Free Corps was disbanded in Bavaria in April-May 1943 were organised into a new Corps bearing the name of the previous Freikorps commander, SS-Obersturmbannführer und Oberleutnant der Waffen-SS Christian Frederik von Schalburg. The Schalburg-Korps was founded and led by the Freikorps' last commander, Martinsen, on 2 February 1943 and disbanded on 28 February 1945. During its two-year existence the announced purpose of the Corps was to produce 'A prouder, more self-asserting and stronger Denmark'.

The Corps was divided into two distinct groups.

Led by their commander, SS-Obergruppenführer Joseph Dietrich, the men of the SS-Leibstandarte 'Adolf Hitler' march through Nuremberg during September 1934 on their way to the Party Congress gathering. Carried at the head of the column is the first pattern

'Adolf Hitler' Standard. Directly behind the Colour party can be seen the Flag for the 1st SS-LAH Battalion. Both these had been presented to the regiment during the Reich Partic Tag held at Nuremberg in September the previous year.



Group I was the active section whose members wore uniforms and were required to bear arms. Group II was made up of civilians who, whilst at the disposal of the Corps, were prevented from carrying on their work in Group I. They were expected to support the Corps both morally and with financial contributions.

The white mobile swastika used as the central design on the Schalburg-Korps flag was echoed by the motif used on the collar patches worn on the black uniforms of Group I members.

ESTONIAN VOLUNTEERS

The Estonian Legion

On 28 August 1942, the first anniversary of the liberation of the Estonian capital of Talin from the Russians, a proclamation was made by German Generalkommissar Litzmann that volunteers were needed to form an 'Estonian Legion' to assist in the crusade against Bolshevism. This Legion, like others the Germans had formed, was to have been a 'national' force made up of Estonians and officered by Estonians. The response to this call to arms was most encouraging. Sufficient recruits were assembled at

the German training camp at Debica in Poland to form three battalions, and the Legion was designated as the 1st Estonian SS Volunteer Grenadier Regiment.

1. Estnische SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier-Regiment

In March 1943 the 1st Battalion was detached from the new SS Regiment and sent to join the SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division 'Wiking' on the Eastern Front, where it operated under the name of the Estnische Freiwilligen-Bataillon 'Narwa'.

Two months later, despite the temporary detachment of its 1st Battalion, the Legion had increased its numbers to such an extent that it was able to form a unit of brigade strength. On 5 May this was given the designation 3rd Estonian SS Volunteer Brigade; it consisted of two regiments, SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier-Regiments Nrs. 45 and 46.

3. Estnische SS-Freiwilligen-Brigade

The brigade was first employed on anti-partisan operations within Estonia, but it was later rushed into the front line in an effort to repel the imminent threat of a Soviet Army breakthrough. The strength of the Estonian Brigade was increased yet again at the start of 1944. Himmler ordered the transfer from the German Army of the two Estonian battalions, the 658th and the 659th; and, along with certain Estonian Police formations they were merged with the brigade to create an Estonian Division on 24 January 1944.

20. Estnische SS-Freiwilligen-Division

In April 1944 the Estonian 'Narwa' Battalion, with the new designation of SS Fusilier Bataillon 20, was detached from the 'Wiking' Division and added to the 20th Division. On 26 May the name of the division was changed yet again, this time to the 20th Armed Grenadier Division of the SS (Estonian No.1).



On 24 June 1945 a massive victory parade was held in Red Square, Moscow. Carried in a prominent place on the right of the front rank of the first block of 200 Russian soldiers, each one of whom carried a captured Colour, was the remains of the first model

'Adolf Hitler' Standard. The five silver rings mounted on the standard pole are believed to be special commemorative rings engraved with the dates of the Reich Party Day gatherings at which the 'Adolf Hitler' Standard was paraded.

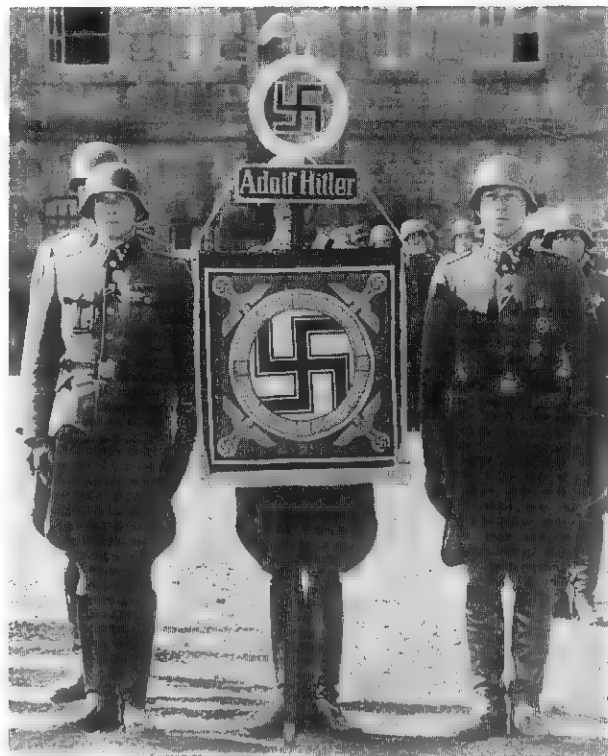
20. Waffen-Grenadier-Division der SS (estnische Nr.1)

In the autumn of 1944 the 20th Division took part in the celebrated 'Battle of the European SS' at Narva on the Estonian-Russian border. The survivors, despite their ferocious defensive fighting, were eventually overrun by the Russians, driven out of Estonia and forced to retreat along with their German allies, first into Silesia and finally into Czechoslovakia. Here in May 1945 many of the Estonians were captured by the Red Army only to meet a swift death. Some, more fortunate, Estonian units were able to escape westwards and gave themselves up to the Anglo-American forces.

LATVIAN VOLUNTEERS

The Latvian contribution to the German war effort consisted in the main of police battalions, later upgraded to police combat battalions and regiments. Once Latvia had been cleared of Soviet forces the German authorities set about disarming the various Latvian anti-Soviet partisan groups, and in their place set up voluntary Latvian police units under German command. The original duties of these units were rear-area security and guarding lines of communication to the German front. However, by the time the Russians launched their winter offensive of 1941-42 more fighting units were desperately needed; further Latvian police battalions were raised and their role was inevitably extended to include front-line combat.

The story of these Latvian police troops has been well documented¹, and their fighting prowess is undisputed. They sustained a great many casualties, and were responsible for buying precious time for thousands of Latvian and Estonian civilians to escape westwards away from the Russian advance during the summer of 1944. The ultimate fate of most of these police formations was either destruction in the defence of their homeland or incorporation into the Waffen-SS.



The second model 'Adolf Hitler' Standard photographed on the day it

was presented to the SS Regiment at Fort Alvensleben, Metz.

I have so far failed to discover if these Latvian volunteers had been presented with a special flag or Colour. In the few photographs that I have seen where Latvian troops are shown carrying a flag, this is invariably either the Latvian national flag or the Latvian war ensign.

CROAT VOLUNTEERS

The 'Free and Independent State of Croatia' was declared on 10 April 1941. Ante Pavelić declared himself to be its Poglavnik (leader), and seven days later he declared war on Great Britain. Thus Croatia came into the Second World War on the side of the Axis powers.

The 369th Reinforced (Croat) Infantry Regiment

Within days of the German invasion of Russia,

1. See 'Uniforms, Organisation and History of the Waffen-SS', Vols. 4 & 5, by Hugh Page Taylor & Roger James Bender; and 'Latvian Legion' by A. Silgailis; all published by R. James Bender Publishing of California, USA.

Pavelić appealed for volunteers to form a Croat Legion. The response was immediate; two battalions were raised, formed into an infantry regiment at Varazdin. A third Bosnian battalion was established at Sarajevo. All three were moved to Dollersheim in Austria, where they were merged to form a single regiment of the German Army with the designation 369th Reinforced (Croat) Infantry Regiment – 369 Verstaerktes Infanterie Regiment (Kroatisches). The 369th Regiment (or, as it was more popularly known, the Croat Legion) had an effective strength of 5,000 officers and men serving in three infantry battalions, one MG Company, one anti-tank company, three batteries of field artillery, a headquarters staff and a supply company.

On 22 August 1941 the Legion joined the German 100th Light Division, fighting on the southern sector of the Russian Front. In September it went into action at Valki, later seeing action at Kharkov, Kalatch and along the River Don. As part of the German 6th Army it was caught up in the fighting for Stalingrad; and although 1,000 wounded Croat sol-

diers were air-lifted out of the beleaguered city the rest of the Legion were either killed or captured when von Paulus's 6th Army was finally forced to surrender in January 1943.

The 369th Infantry Division, The 'Devil's Division'

Between September and December 1942 the Germans raised two new Croatian infantry regiments, these were formed into the 369th Infantry Division. Commanded by Generalleutnant Fritz Neidholt, the new division was employed on counter-insurgency operations within Yugoslavia for the remaining months of the German occupation of that country. Of the three Croat infantry divisions raised by the Germans – the 369th ('Devil's Division' – Vrazja Divizija), the 373rd ('Tiger Division' – Tigar Divizija) and the 392nd ('Blue Division' – Plava Divizija, not to be confused with the Spanish 'Blue Division') – only the 369th played any significant role in these vicious anti-partisan operations. The 'Devil's Division' received their special Colour during a ceremony held in Croatia on 16 May 1944.

FRENCH VOLUNTEERS

The Légion des Volontaires Français contre le Bolchévisme was launched on 7 July 1941 at a special meeting held at the Hotel Majestic in Paris. The leaders of the various right-wing French political parties met to discuss the unexpected German invasion of the Soviet Union and what contribution they and their followers could make in this German campaign.

In all 13,400 Frenchmen volunteered to join the LVF, but many had to be rejected on grounds of character or bad health. The actual number that were finally recruited was 5,800, of which 3,000 joined within the first three months. In order to comply with



The second 'Adolf Hitler' Standard being paraded at the memorial service for SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Fritz Witt, commander of the SS-Panzer-

Grenadier-Division 'Hitlerjugend', killed in Normandy on 16 July 1944; Witt had been an officer in the 'Leibstandarte' prior to his transfer to the 'Hitler Youth' Division.

the international rules of warfare, the French volunteers were required to wear German military uniform when outside the borders of France; they were permitted, however, to wear French military uniform within France. The French press announced on 20 August 1941 that Col. Roger Labonne, a 60-year-old military historian, had been appointed as the LVF's first commander. On 27 August a ceremony took place at Versailles during which the LVF received its first Colour.

The first draft of 828 French volunteers left Paris on 4 September 1941 for their training camp in Debica in Poland, followed on 20 September by a second contingent of 896 men. By October the Legion mustered two battalions with a strength of 2,271 men and 181 officers, plus a small staff of 35 Germans for liaison duties. The Germans gave the French Legion the army designation of 'Reinforced Infantry Regiment No.638' (638me Régiment Renforcé d'Infanterie Français).

At the end of October 1941, after their initial training, both battalions were sent to the Moscow front, where they formed part of the German Army's 7th Infantry Division. This move proved to be poorly timed, as the Frenchmen were caught up in the first severe winter campaign when the Soviet troops launched their counter-offensive. The Germans were thrown back and the LVF lost half its effective strength.

In December 1941 the LVF received a further 1,400 volunteers, sent to Debica to form a 3rd Battalion. In March 1942 the Legion's commander, Col. Labonne, was relieved of his command. The LVF was pulled out of the fighting, reduced to two battalions, the 1st under the command of Maj. Lacroix and the 3rd commanded by Maj. Demessine (the 2nd Battalion having been virtually wiped out in the winter fighting before Moscow).

La Légion Tricolore

The Légion Tricolore was a short-lived formation that was intended to replace the LVF as an official French military unit, it existed for just six months –

from 28 June to 28 December 1942. It was headed by Raymond Lachal, Pierre Laval's right-hand man. At a ceremony held in Lyons on 12 July Joseph Darnard, Inspector-General of the Service d'Order des Legionnaires, stated that whereas the activities of the SOL would be confined mainly to France, the Légion Tricolore, should the necessity arise, would 'fight on the side of the Axis in Europe and Africa'. It was planned that the surviving members of the former LVF plus new LVF recruits would be absorbed into the new Legion; that they should be allowed to wear French military uniforms, receive French decorations and be financed by the Ministry of War. Unlike its all-infantry predecessor, the new formation would consist of all arms, with Gen. Galy as its commandant and with its central depot at Gueret near Vichy. Special appeals were made for the recruitment of General Staff officers, doctors and propagandists. The new unit's function was defined as 'to intervene where the interests of France or her Empire might make it necessary'. Formal recognition of the Légion Tricolore was given at a ceremony held in Paris on 28 August 1942 attended by Admiral Darlan, Ambassador de Brinon and Otto Abetz, German Ambassador to France.

Hitler did not approve of the new formation, particularly because it was under French and not German control. Consequently, on the 28 December 1942 the Légion Tricolore was quietly dissolved; only a few of the newly recruited officers and men elected to join the resurrected LVF, the rest returning to civilian life.



The Flag for the SS Infantry Battalion from the SS-Division Leibstandarte-SS 'Adolf Hitler' being used for

swearing-in new recruits at the division's barracks, Berlin-Lichterfeld; the left or obverse side is shown.



A parade of the Infantry Battalion of the SS-Division Leibstandarte-SS

'Adolf Hitler'; the right or obverse side of the flag is partially visible.

The LVF (second phase)

The history of the LVF continued, despite the hiccup of the Légion Tricolore. For the rest of 1942 and the following year the LVF engaged in anti-partisan operations in the rear of various German fronts. In June 1942 the 3rd Battalion suffered heavy casualties in the large-scale anti-partisan operations around Volost. The 1st Battalion, as part of the German 186th Security Division, was deployed against partisans in the Smolensk area. In June 1943 both battalions were brought together under the 286th Security Division; and the 2nd Battalion was reconstituted and added to the LVF, making the Legion once more a single regiment. Command of the Legion was given to Col. Edgar Puaud, a former Foreign Legion officer and a professional soldier who had

spent most of his time in North Africa; he had served as chief of staff to Gen. Galy prior to the disbandment of the Légion Tricolore.

In January and February 1944 the Legion was heavily engaged in both front-line and anti-partisan warfare, where it achieved considerable success. In April 1944 Col. Puaud was promoted by the Vichy government to the rank of brigadier-general. When the Russians launched their summer offensive in June 1944 the LVF was once more in the front line, where they gave a good account of themselves. On 1 September 1944 the LVF suddenly ceased to exist: without consultation or warning it was absorbed into the French Waffen-SS.

SPANISH VOLUNTEERS

Between 1941 and 1945 Spain provided two groups of volunteers to serve alongside the German forces on the Eastern Front.

The Spanish Volunteer Division

The first contingent was known in Spanish as the Division Española de Voluntarios and in German as the Spanische Freiwilligen Division, but was more commonly referred to as the Division Azul or Blauen Division ('Blue Division', supposedly from the blue shirts of the Spanish fascist Falange party). It was organised into four infantry regiments, a regiment of artillery and various supporting troops, such as engineers and signals units. Each of the four Spanish infantry regiments was named after its commander; thus the 1st Regiment was the Regimiento Esparza, named after Col. José Martínez Esparza (or alternatively 'de Andalucía', after its area of recruitment); the 2nd was the 'Regimiento Vierna' commanded by Col. José Vierna Trábega; the 3rd, the 'Regimiento Pimental' led by Col. Pedro Pimental Zayas; and the 4th, commanded by Col. Miguel Rodrigo Martínez, was named 'Regimiento Rodrigo'.

Once the Division had arrived at its training camp at Grafenwöhr, Bavaria, it was reorganised into three German-numbered infantry regiments each of three battalions:

Infantry Regiment 262 (formerly Regiment Pimental);

Infantry Regiment 263 (formerly Regiment Vierna);
Infantry Regiment 269 (formerly Regiment Esparza).

There were a number of supporting units, identified by the number 250. The Spanish Volunteer Legion was officially re-designated 250. Infanterie Division (Spanische), although it still bore the German title 'Spanische Freiwilligen Division'. The Blue Division fought on the Volkhov River front and was afterwards switched to assist in the siege of Leningrad. In October 1943 it was pulled out of the front line, and a month later it was returned to Spain, where it was disbanded.

The Spanish Volunteer Legion

Almost upon the dissolution of the Blue Division a further, but much smaller, regimental-sized contingent of Spanish volunteers was raised. They were formed into a unit with the Spanish title 'Legion Española de Voluntarios', but, as had happened before, the appellation 'Legion Azul' was frequently used. The Blue Legion comprised two infantry battalions, numbered I and II, and a mixed battalion, III. Its time with the German forces was spent fighting on the Eastern Front until April 1944, when the survivors were pulled out of the front and returned to Spain. By this time conditions had deteriorated to such an extent that the sending to Germany of a third proposed Spanish volunteer unit was abandoned. Spain took no further part in the Second World War.

INDIAN VOLUNTEERS

Indian Infantry Regiment 950

Subhas Chandra Bose, a Calcutta lawyer and prominent Indian nationalist politician, having escaped from British house arrest in India, succeeded in 1941

in making his way safely to Berlin. With the blessing of the German military authorities he set about organising a military unit made up in the main from Indian prisoners of war captured in North Africa. Bose intended that his unit would serve alongside German forces fighting in the Caucasus, expecting that they would thrust through Persia, placing him in the vanguard of a march on India to overthrow the British administration.

He visited Annaberg Camp, where about 10,000 Indian prisoners were held; and in time was so successful that the German Army were able to form Indian Infantry Regiment 950, also commonly referred to as the Indian Legion or the Azad Hind Legion. The first contingent of volunteers, comprising former PoWs and Indian civilians living in Germany, left Berlin Anhalter station for Frankenberg near Chemnitz on Christmas Day 1941. Their task was to receive further batches of released PoWs and to convince these new prisoners of the justice of their

The Spaniards were very flag-conscious and the volunteers possessed a number of different colourful flags. One such was the special Colour presented to the volunteers of the Division Azul by the Spanish Government's Sports Committee; the

volunteers carried it with them on 12 April 1942 when they attended an international football match in the Berlin Olympic Stadium between Germany and Spain. (The score was a draw, one all...)





Paris, July 1942: Sepp Dietrich and Generaloberst Haase (right), commanding general of the 15th Army, inspect the Leibstandarte Artillery Guidon. Like the second model 'Adolf Hitler' Standard and the Flag for the SS Infantry

Battalion this was designed by Professor Carl Diebitsch; they were similar to his previous design for the Führerstandarte. All these SS items were manufactured by the Berlin firm Fahren-Hoffmann.

cause. German instructors, both NCOs and officers, were responsible for the training or retraining of the volunteers. Frankenberg camp proved to be inadequate, and the Legion was moved to Königsbruck, near Dresden in Saxony.

In December 1942 the Legion was inaugurated, with a strength of 3,500 in four battalions. From the outset all the companies were, as far as possible, mixed-religion units with Sikhs, Mohammedans, Rajputs, Jats, Garhwalis and Marathas serving alongside each other. On the completion of training the Legion was sent to Holland via Beverloo in Belgium. The Legion stayed in Holland for five months before moving to France, to be stationed in the coastal area at Lacanau near Bordeaux; here they undertook Atlantic Wall duties. In April 1944 they were inspected by Field Marshal Rommel.

Two months after the Normandy landings the Indian troops were ordered back to Germany. On 15 August 1944 they were transported by train from Lacanau to Poitiers; here they came under attack from the French Maquis and suffered a number of wounded. At the end of August they were once more

on the move, withdrawing through Chatrou to Allier, under attack for much of the time from the French Resistance. By the first week in September the Indian columns had reached the Berry Canal and the town of Dun; here they came up against regular French troops, and during house-to-house fighting the Legion suffered its first combat fatality, Lt. Ali Khan, who was buried with military honours at Sancoin. The Legion lost more men killed during night marches through Luzy, crossing the Loire and moving towards Dijon. A sharp anti-tank encounter took place at Nuits St. Georges. After resting for a few days the Legion reached Remisemont and carried on to Colmar, and from there to the garrison town of Oberhofen near Hagenau. They were billeted in the homes of German civilians until Christmas 1944, when, in extremely cold weather, they were moved into the empty military training camp at Heuberg.

The Indian troops stayed at Heuberg until the end of March 1945, when they marched along the Bodensee in an attempt to cross over into neutral Switzerland via the Alpine passes. It was here that they were finally overrun by American and French units and were taken prisoner, some of the legionaries being shot out of hand by the French. Guarded by British and Indian soldiers, they were marched into captivity and eventually shipped back to India to be imprisoned in the Red Fort at Delhi, to await their trial for treason.

THE PLATES

A1: 'Deutschland Erwache' Standard for the SS-Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler

This standard conformed with those carried by other SS and SA Regiments, with the obvious exception of the name-box.

The standard cloth measured 70cm wide by 60cm high and is shown here edged on three sides with a black, white and red tufted wool fringe; a feature of SS/SA Standards presented from September 1933. The overall height of the standard was 2.3 metres. The black-painted, polished wood pole was in two sections joined by a silver-metal collar; for transportation the pole could be broken down by unscrewing the two sections.

At least four SS-Verfügungstruppe Standards

The new Company Colours and the two new guidons for the Walloon Volunteer Legion are paraded for the first time at a special ceremony held on the Grand' Place, Brussels; they are carried by members of the Walloon Jeunesse Légionnaire prior to being presented to a new contingent of volunteers about to depart for the Eastern Front.



were known to have been presented, one each to:

SS-Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler (whose Headquarters and I Battalion were garrisoned at Berlin) received their standard during the Party Congress held at Nuremburg in September 1933, when 126 'Deutschland Erwache' Standards were presented to the SA and SS. (NB: The exact form of the title of this unit quoted in this book accord with the several changes made at various dates.)

SS-Standarte 'Deutschland' (garrisoned Munich) was presented its standard during the 1935 Reichspartietag (see A3).

SS-Standarte 'Germania' (garrisoned Hamburg), presented during the Nuremburg Party Congress of September 1936 (see A4).

SS-Standarte 'Der Führer' (garrisoned Vienna) received their standard at the Reichsparteitag of September 1938 (see A5).

Each identical standard was distinguished by the name-box. These were 12cm high and 40cm long and constructed of polished silver metal with a black-painted background to the silver lettering. Prior to the Party Congress of September 1933 these boxes displayed the initial letters 'N.S.D.A.P.' on their front face (see A2) with the name of the unit on the rear face. This practice was reversed for the Party Congress of 1933. On that occasion and throughout the Third Reich's remaining eleven years and four months the box on all 'Germany Awake' Standards was altered so that the name of the unit appeared at the front of the Standard and the letters 'N.S.D.A.P.' at the rear.

When not in use it was the practice to keep the Regimental Standards or the Battalion Flags in the office of the commander of the respective replace-

ment battalions. In the case of the first pattern Adolf Hitler Standard, this had been handed over to the SSLAH replacement battalion for safekeeping, presumably prior to September 1940, when the original standard was replaced by the presentation of the second pattern (see below).

In 1945 when Russian troops overran the Leibstandarte barracks at Berlin-Lichterfelde they found the original Adolf Hitler Standard and took it back to Moscow. The standard, minus its cloth, was prominently displayed during the victory parade held in Red Square on 24 June 1945, and was subsequently placed on display in the Hall of Banners at the Red Army Museum in Moscow, where, presumably, it remains to this day. It is probable that prior to its falling into Soviet hands the standard cloth, complete with its cross bar and tassels, was removed, rolled up and spirited away. The 2.3cm high pole with its finial and name-box was probably abandoned, being too cumbersome to smuggle to safety. It is therefore possible that the standard cloth has survived to this day, hidden somewhere in Germany for the past 48 years.

A6: Second pattern Standard for the Leibstandarte-SS 'Adolf Hitler'

On 30 September 1939 a special Army Standard had been presented to the Führer Escort Battalion (see MAA 270). This was the first of at least four different flags and standards (see below) known to have been presented to those units closely associated with the Führer. Each item was distinguished by the use of the 'Führerstandarte' design that had first featured on the personal Standard for Adolf Hitler as Leader, Reichs Chancellor and Supreme Commander of the

German Armed Forces. It is also of interest to note that these items with the 'Führerstandarte' design were probably the very last flags and standards to be presented to German military units, all presentations having been made after the outbreak of war.

On 7 September 1940, following the fall of France, a new standard (sometimes referred to as the 'second pattern Standard') was presented to the Leibstandarte-SS 'Adolf Hitler'. The ceremony took place at Fort Alvensleben in the city of Metz in Alsace. Reichsführer Himmler, representing the Führer, presented the new standard to SS-Oberstgruppenführer und Generaloberst der Waffen-SS Josef (Sepp) Dietrich, the commander of the LSSAH.

The pole, finial, wreath, name-box and cross bar were, for all intents and purposes, of the same design and dimensions as those used with the earlier 'Germany Awake' Standard. The cloth, however, was of a special design and size and the name-box was of gilded metal. Although the precise size of the standard cloth is not known it was obviously square in shape compared to the 'Deutschland Erwache' Standard; and therefore presumably 70cm square. It was of bright red silk, in the centre of the front face was a white silk disc. Set inside the circumference of the disc was a circular garland of gold-coloured oakleaves decorated at four equidistant places (top, base, left and right) with a wide band of gold-coloured ribbon.

Edged with narrow black and white fimbriations, the arms of the solid black swastika extended to the inner edge of the garland of oakleaves. In each corner of the red field was a gold-coloured eagle and swastika, all of the same design and all with their heads and outstretched wings next to the garland. All four eagle's heads faced to their left, in an anti-clockwise direction. The standard cloth was edged on all four sides with what appeared to be a triple border; this in fact consisted of a wide border of black material on which was laid a narrow border of silver-white aluminium braiding. The cloth itself had a gold fringe on three sides, the fourth side – the upper edge – forming a tunnel through which passed the wooden cross bar.

The design displayed on the rear face of the standard cloth is not known to the author. In the course of my enquiries it transpired that Axel Springer, the former standard bearer, was unfortunately unable to recall the design. This in itself may indicate that there was nothing untoward about the design, and that it probably conformed to the Iron Cross motif found on the obverse of the other 'Führerstandarte' SS items.

Although the standard cloth was displayed hung from the wooden cross bar, this in itself was not fixed to the upright pole. The standard cloth and cross bar were supported by two lengths of gold cording, attached by spring clips to a small ring set into each



The Headquarters Company and Staff Company guidons being paraded in Charleroi, 1 April 1944. The bearers are Obersturmbannführer Thyssen (left) and Oberscharführer Bovy.



2 **N.S.D.A.P.**

3 **Deutschland**

4 **Germania**

5 **Der Führer**

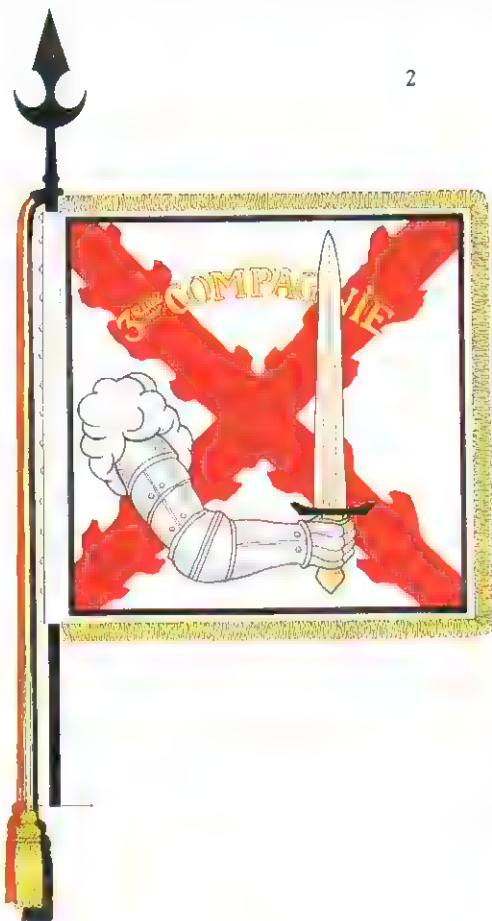


- 1 First model SSL-Adolf Hitler Regiment standard
- 2 Name-box, 'Deutschland Erwache' standard (rear)
- 3 Name-box, SS Regiment 'Deutschland' (front)
- 4 Name-box, SS Regiment 'Germania' (front)
- 5 Name-box, SS Regiment 'Der Führer' (front)
- 6 Second model LSSAH Regiment standard



1 LSSAH infantry battalion flag (left side)
 2 LSSAH infantry battalion flag (right side)
 3 LSSAH artillery guidon (left side)
 4 LSSAH artillery guidon (right side)

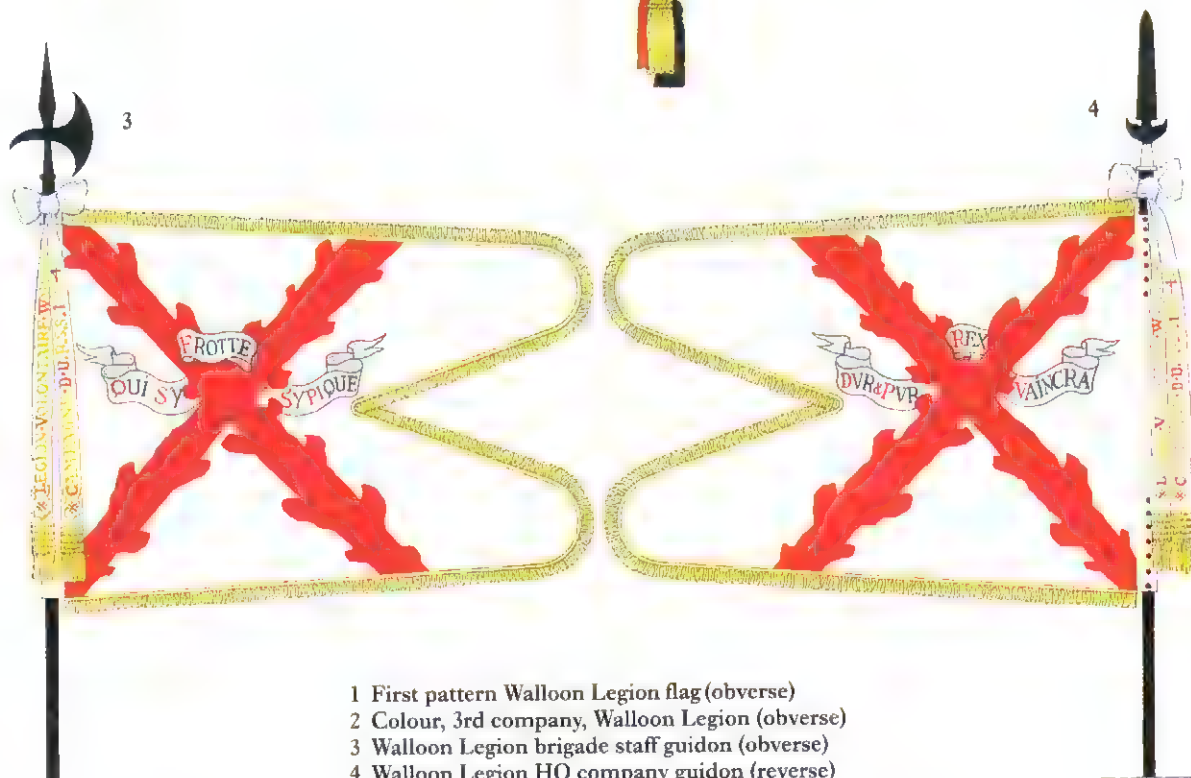
2



1

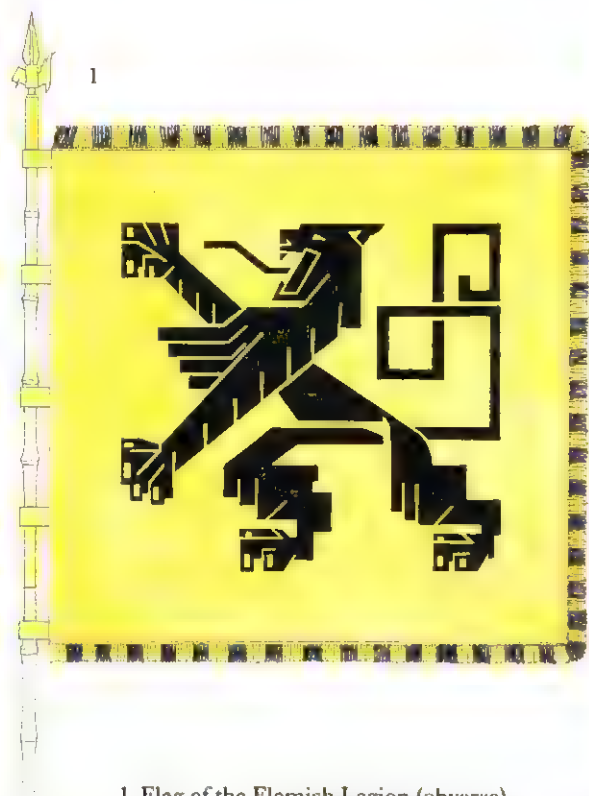


4



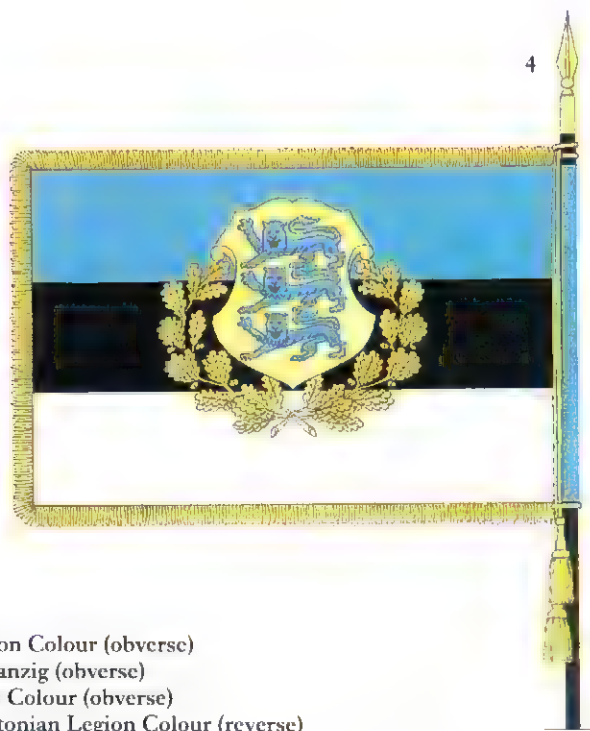
3

- 1 First pattern Walloon Legion flag (obverse)
- 2 Colour, 3rd company, Walloon Legion (obverse)
- 3 Walloon Legion brigade staff guidon (obverse)
- 4 Walloon Legion HQ company guidon (reverse)

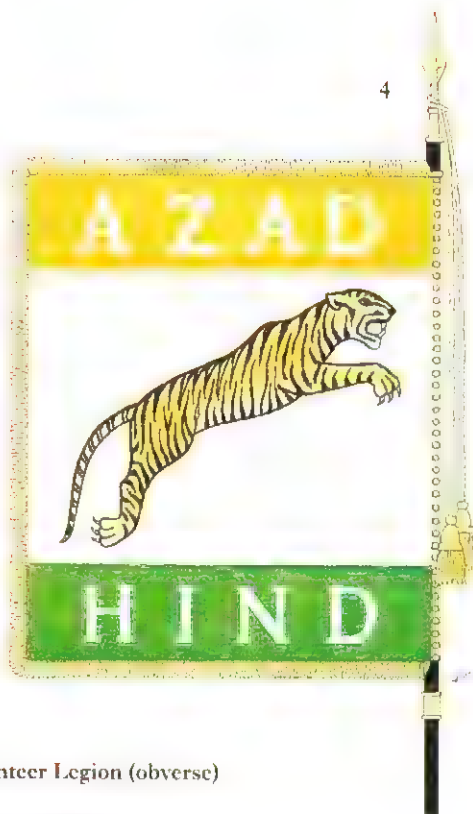


- 1 Flag of the Flemish Legion (obverse)
- 2 Flag of the Norwegian Legion (obverse)
- 3 1st 'Viken' Battalion Colour, Norwegian Legion (obverse)
- 4 Police Company colour, Norwegian Legion (obverse)

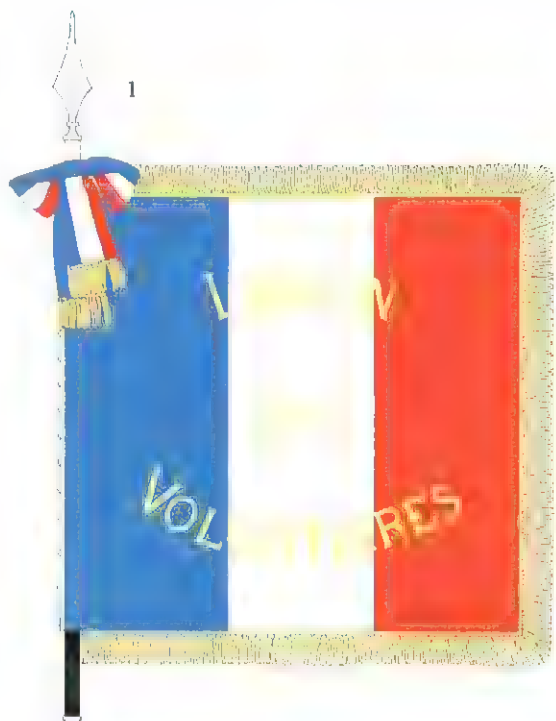




- 1 The Finnish Volunteer Legion Colour (obverse)
- 2 Flag of the SS-Heimwehr Danzig (obverse)
- 3 The Dutch Schalburg Corps Colour (obverse)
- 4 1st Grenadier Regiment, Estonian Legion Colour (reverse)

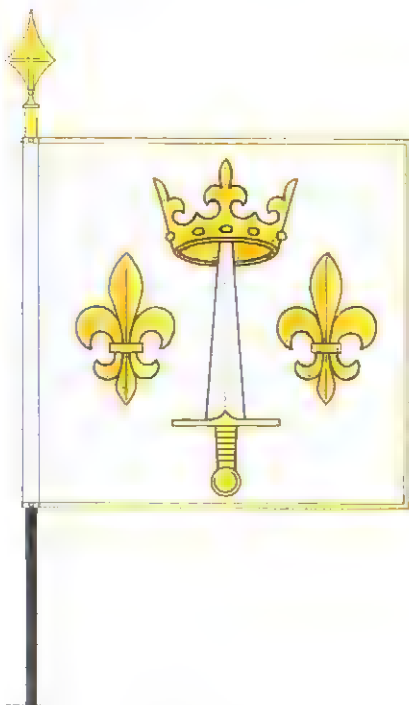


- 1 National Flag used by Latvian Volunteer Legion (obverse)
- 2 Flag of the 'Frikorps Danmark'
- 3 Flag of 369th (Croat) Infantry Division (obverse)
- 4 The Free India Legion Colour (reverse)



- 1 First model Colour, French Volunteer Legion (LVF) (obverse)
- 2 First model Colour, LVF (reverse)
- 3 Second model Colour, LVF (obverse)
- 4 Second model Colour, LVF (reverse)





- 1 The Joan of Arc standard, LVF Ecole des Cadres (obverse)
- 2 The Joan of Arc standard, LVF Ecole des Cadres (reverse)
- 3 2nd Battalion Colour, 262nd (Pimentel) Infantry Regiment, Spanish Volunteer Division (obverse)
- 4 3rd Battalion, Colour, Spanish Volunteer Legion (obverse)



end of the name-box. A third of the way down their length each of the cords was wound around the ends of the black-painted and polished wooden cross bar at the base of the gold-coloured 'acorn' bosses. The lower ends of these gold cords hung down on either side of the standard cloth and were finished with heavy gold tassels.

The fate of this second pattern SS Standard is unknown. Enquiries would suggest that, along with the SS Infantry Flag and the SS Artillery Standard, it was deposited for safekeeping in the hands of a sympathiser somewhere in Austria in 1945.

B1 & B2: Infantry Battalion Flag, Leibstandarte-SS 'Adolf Hitler'

Although no precise specifications have so far come to light with regard to the dimensions of this SS infantry battalion flag, it can be assumed that they were the same as those for an Army battalion flag (see MAA 270), i.e. 125cm square. The Flag was produced from bright red silk, this was edged on three sides with a double sewn-on fringed border of gold-coloured strands 4.5cm deep. The fourth side of the flag had an extra 20cm wide selvedge which was wrapped around the wooden staff from a short distance below the base of the finial and nailed in position. It is believed that 74 silvered nails were used (the same number as used on the Army battalion flags), all hammered into the staff with a strip of silver-aluminium reinforcing braid set between the flag cloth and the nail heads. A further two horizontal rows of eight nails were used to secure the top and bottom edges of the flag's selvedge around the staff, strips of silver reinforcing braid were also used.

Tied, either below the shaft of the LAH finial (as shown in the colour plates) or actually around the finial shaft itself, was a streamer. This was a length of 'Blood Order' ribbon (the ribbon for the 'Decoration of 9 November 1923', the 'Ehrenzeichen vom 9. November 1923'). It was tied in such a way as to show two slightly unequal lengths, each ending in a specially constructed silver-aluminium tassel with black, silver (white) and red chevron-design stems.

The flag staff was made from a single piece of seasoned oak, painted black and polished; it was machine-turned at both ends to give a slight conical

effect, and it is assumed to have been – like the Army flag staffs – 3m in length from the tip of the finial to the bottom of the metal ferrule. The finial was cast in light aluminium, ground and polished. Its height including the shaft is assumed to have been 28.6cm with a maximum width, similar to that used on Army flags, of 11.5cm. The outer frame of this finial was shaped into the form of a broad spear point. This frame was cast in the pattern of a string of oak leaves. In the centre of this spear point were the stylised initial letters 'LAH' for 'Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler'. The same stylised form was used for these finials as was used on a number of other SS items, notably the cypher used on the early pattern LAH shoulder straps. When viewed from the rear the reverse of this symbol was seen.

Fixed to the staff by three silver-headed nails just below the lower edge of the flag's fringe was a polished, nickel-plated metal collar. This 'Bataillonasring', similar to those used on Army battalion Colours, was engraved with the battalion's designation in abbreviated form, the exact description of which is not known. The lower end of the wooden staff was capped with a 7cm-deep blunt-ended ferrule cast from polished nickel-plated metal. The ferrule was slightly conical and was fastened to the staff by a screw.

(B1) The left side displayed a large representation of the 1939 pattern Iron Cross. The four corners were



The flag of the Norwegian Legion.

each occupied by a gold-coloured, hand-embroidered eagle and swastika. This design was the same, albeit larger, as that found on the left side of the Artillery Standard and presumably on the rear face of the second pattern Adolf Hitler Standard.

(B2) Except for its dimensions, the right side of the Infantry Battalion Flag was of a design and colouring very similar to that used for the Artillery Standard, and as described for the LSSAH Standard.

B3 & B4: Standard for the SS Artillery

The dimensions and shape of this standard were the same as for an army standard. The standard cloth consisted of a single piece of hand-woven completely flawless bright red silk measuring 75cm long × 51cm high. In the fly of the cloth was a 25cm deep cut-out shaped section, the so-called 'Hussar cut', which ran from a point on the horizontal axis of the central field.

(B3) The obverse side displayed the same design as described for the obverse of the Infantry Battalion flag (B1).

(B4) The design on the reverse of the SS Artillery Standard, apart from the size, was similar to that described for the LSSAH Standard (A6).



The staff to which the cloth was attached differed in a number of noticeable essentials from that used with the Infantry Colour. The staff was 2.85m in length from the tip of the finial to the bottom of the silver metal ferrule, and had a maximum diameter of 45mm. The finial was as described for the SS Infantry Colour. The streamers tied to the shaft of the finial were also as described for the Infantry Colour. Positioned on the staff 3.5cm below the lower edge of the selvedge of the cloth was a 'Bataillons-ring', assumed to have had the name of the artillery detachment engraved in it. Fitted to the black wooden staff directly below this collar was a series of six 1cm wide silver-metal fillets. These hollow strips of 1.2cm thick polished German silver encircled the staff vertically spaced at 7mm intervals; each fillet was secured to the staff at both ends by a single silver-headed screw.

It would be safe to assume that protective covers in both muslin and waxed, artificial leather were provided for the SS Artillery Standard and for the SS Infantry Colour.

C1: Rexist Black Flag for the Walloon Volunteers

When the first 800 volunteers left Brussels on 8 August 1941 to form the nucleus of the newly raised Legion Wallonie they marched behind a Colour party bearing the Legion's first flag. This was distinctive firstly because of its size – 1.10m square – and secondly because it was black. Across the centre of the black field was a stylised version of the red Ragged Cross of Burgundy. The choice of black and red was probably influenced by the black uniforms worn by Rexist Party members and the deep red of their Ragged Cross party insignia; and with the addition of the gold of the fringe the national colours of Belgium were represented. This flag had been presented to the volunteers by Leon Degrelle during a ceremony held at the Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, prior to their departure for Poland.

The flag had a gold fringe around three sides, and along the fourth, unfringed, side was a series of five black cloth loops through which passed the 2m high

The Colour of the 1st 'Viken' Battalion of the Norwegian Legion being paraded during ■

swearing-in ceremony held at Fellingbostel on 3 October 1941.

bamboo flag pole. The top of the pole was fitted with a pike head. Tied to the shaft of the pike head, forming a large bow with a long double streamer, was a length of ribbon in the Belgian national colours of black, yellow and red. It is believed that the flag carried an identical design on its obverse and reverse sides.

A photograph of the black flag was featured in an illustrated wartime newspaper, *La Légia* on 28 July 1942 (reproduced on page 4 of this book), but its use seems to have been short-lived. It was superseded in March 1942 by the new company Colours and guidons of the Walloon volunteers. What became of the black Rexist flag is not known; it may still be in safekeeping somewhere in Belgium, as it was not taken in battle but retired from use, and may well have survived the war.

The Company Colours and Guidons for the Légion Volontaire Wallonie and the SS-Sturmbrigade 'Wallonien'

On 10 March 1942 new Colours and guidons were introduced to replace the black Rexist flag used by the Walloon volunteers serving in the Wallonische Infanterie Bataillon Nr.373, the Walloon Volunteer Legion, since 8 August 1941. In all, eight Company Colours and two guidons, one each for the Brigade Headquarters Company and the Brigade Staff, were presented. These new Colours and guidons were amongst the most heraldically interesting of all the flags used by the non-German foreign volunteers. They were also the most numerous and the most colourful. The chosen emblems and the general style and size¹ of the Colours and guidons was a deliberate evocation of past historic models.

The new Colours were paraded for the first time during a special ceremony held on the Grand' Place in Brussels. Each Colour was carried by a member of the Rexist Youth, the Jeunesse Legionnaire, prior to their being presented to the men of the new contingent of volunteers about to depart for the Eastern Front. The Colours were taken on active service when the Legion went into action. When, on 1 June 1943, the Legion was upgraded to the status of an assault brigade and its personnel were transferred



In September 1942 the first of the four Norwegian Police Companies was presented with its own

Colour, by Vidkun Quisling, prior to the unit departing for training in Germany.

into the Waffen-SS, the Colours were transferred with them. The Colours and guidons continued to be used by the Walloons until the final months of the war, when, during the general rout of the Axis forces, they were concealed somewhere in Germany where they remained undetected for nine years. In 1954, all ten Colours were recovered and removed to Spain, where they were handed over to Leon Degrelle, and where they remain to this day.

C2: Company Colours for the Walloon Volunteers

Although all eight Colours were individually made, and close examination shows minor variations in their manufacture, the overall design of each is very similar, if not identical. Only the company number differed on each Colour².

Each Colour was 82cm wide by 70cm high. Each was produced in white material with a bright red diagonal ragged cross, the ends of the arms of which extended into the four corners of the white field. Displayed upon the lower branches of the cross was an armoured right arm emerging from a pale blue thundercloud and grasping in its mailed fist an unsheathed broadsword, point uppermost. Set above the armoured arm was a shallow arc of gold-yellow lettering, each letter finely outlined with red silk. This designated the Company title, with each end of

¹ The Belgian forces possess three types of flags: *Drapeau*, carried by infantry troops, 90cm square; *etendard*, used by the cavalry, armoured units, artillery formations, naval & aviation units, and 80cm square; *fanion*, 70cm square, used by troops such as engineers, transportation units, military schools, medical units, etc.

² The numbering and spelling of the Company titles were: 1ère COMPAGNIE, and thereafter 2ème to 8ème COMPAGNIE.



15 October 1941: the Colour of the Finnish Volunteer Battalion of the Waffen-SS is paraded at the Gross Born training area.

the lettering superimposed on the two upper branches of the cross. In every instance the sword point overlaid and partly obscured the letter 'N'.

This design of the ragged cross, the cloud, arm, sword and lettering was all contained within a narrow black border set just inside the edge of the white cloth. This border appears to have been made from a length of flat, plaited black cording stitched on to the Colour. The Colour was edged along three sides with a narrow fringe of twisted and looped strands of gold thread. The fourth, unfringed, edge was wrapped around the wooden staff and nailed in position with a vertical line, or series, of nails¹.

Each of the Colours was fitted to a brown wooden pole, capped at the lower end with a polished, plain silver-metal ferrule and at the upper end with a finial, which came in a variety of forms (see below under Brigade Staff Guidon). Fixed to – not tied around – the base of the shaft of each finial were three lengths of coloured cording, in black, yellow and red, approximately 140cm long and each finished with a

deep tassel in a colour matching the cord.

The left, obverse side, of each Colour showed the arm emerging from the cloud next to the hoist side of the Colour. On the right, reverse side, of the Colour the cloud is set against the fly side.

The red ragged saltire, referred to heraldically as a 'cross raguly', in addition to being the emblem of the Rexist Movement, is said to represent the crossed limbs of a tree; it was historically associated with Burgundy, whose patron was the apostle and martyr St. Andrew.

The armoured arm, cloud and sword emblem was widely used during the 16th and 17th centuries, often representing the avenging right arm of God. One feature that makes these company Colours unusually attractive is the representation of metallic plate armour with shading and highlights.

The Guidons

The Brigade Staff and the Headquarters Company guidons had the same overall dimensions and basic shape, and both displayed a similar design. The height of both was 110cm, with the greatest width being 150cm. The distance from the inner point of the 'Hussar cut' to the edge of the selvedge measured 90cm. The guidons were fixed to a wooden staff 2.3m high, tipped with a finial in the shape of an ancient pole weapon. Both guidons were produced from white cloth, probably silk, and were edged around with a thick, compacted but short gold-fringed border. Each bore a design of the red cross of Burgundy, behind and through which was entwined a silver-coloured undulating scroll, outlined with a fine black line, bearing a legend in French. Both had almost identical streamers attached to their staffs.

C3: Brigade Staff Guidon

The legend on the scroll was 'Qui s'y Frotte s'y Pique', which can be translated as 'who ever rubs against me is pierced' – a motto originally used in 1757 by Belgians in the service of the Empress Maria Theresa. The silver-coloured scroll was shaded and edged around with a fine black line. The lettering was in red for the first letter of each word, and in black for the remaining letters. The cloth of this guidon was fastened to the wooden staff by a single vertical line of 23 nails along the 'rear surface' of the selvedge.

The pale blue silk streamer was elaborate. The

¹ The number of nails varied between the different Companies. The example illustrated here, for the 3rd Company, shows 15 in a single vertical row. Examination of contemporary photographs shows that on the 4th Company Colour 14 were used in two rows of seven at either end of the cloth selvedge. For the 1st Company only six nails were used, evenly spaced along the length of the cloth.

centre of the streamer was tied around the base of the finial in a large bow with two ends of equal length. Embroidered on one end of the streamer were the words **LEGION VOLONTAIRE WALLONIE**; and on the other end **CAMPAGNE D U.R.S.S. 1941-42**. The first letter of each word and the first number of each date were embroidered in bright red silk, the remaining letters and numbers in gold thread. Set between each word halfway up the height of the lettering was a small red dot; these were also used after the initial letters **U.R.S.S.**; the hyphen between the dates was also in red. At the extremities of the streamer were fringes of gold threads decorated with lines of red silk. Directly above these fringes, in front of the first of the lettering, were small red and yellow flame-like decorations set into the four angles of the small red ragged crosses. These were flanked by yellow floral decorations.

C4: Headquarters Company Guidon

The legend on the scroll was 'Dur & Pur Rex Vaincra', which translates as 'Strong and pure, Rex will triumph'. In all other respects the guidon was of a similar design to the Brigade Staff Guidon. The cloth of this guidon was fastened to the staff by two vertical series of seven nails, each set nailed along the right side of the staff at the top and bottom respectively of the selvedge. It is believed, however, that the date displayed on the pale blue streamer carried on the Headquarters Company Guidon was **CAMPAGNE D U.R.S.S. 1943-44**. The dimensions, colouring and decoration of this streamer were as previously described.

It is evident from the study of contemporary photographs that various finials were used at different times to decorate the staffs of the eight Company Colours and the two guidons. This implies that each finial was removable and interchangeable. The staff points came in various historical pole-arm forms such as espartoons, pikes, half-pikes, partisans, halbards, broad and narrow spear points, gisarmes and corseques¹. It would seem that the majority of these finials – none of which, unfortunately, survived the war – were based on the collection of weapons and armour



An 'official' photograph showing the Colour presented to the SS-Heimwehr Danzig.

that was held in the Museum at the Porte de Hal, Brussels.

D1: Great Flag of the Freiwilligen Legion Flandern

Initially the Legion bore a number of German designations. It was known variously as the Verband Flandern, Landesverband Flandern, Bataillon Flandern, and then finally in September 1941 it was given the title **Freiwilligen Legion Flandern** (Volunteer Legion Flanders). By the time their training had been completed the Legion comprised a headquarters and a headquarters company, two rifle companies, one machine-gun company, a mortar company and an anti-tank company. On 6 August 1941 the first contingent of Flemish volunteers paraded in Brussels, where, at the Palais des Beaux-Arts, they were presented with their Colour.

The Colour was large, but the precise dimensions have not yet been established. It had a bright yellow field on which was displayed the black salient Lion of Flanders. (The heraldic term 'salient' indicates that

¹ Esponton, pike = spearhead forms with short cross bar below the blade. Half-pike = spearhead without cross bar, but often with tassel around base of head. Partisan = broad double-edged cutting blade. Halbard = narrow spike head above axe-blade, balanced by beak or hook at back edge. Gisarme, corseque = pointed thrusting blades with respectively one and two recurved hook points below.

the lion is in the attitude of springing with its hind legs on the ground. A 'rampant' lion shows the animal in profile, erect and resting on its hind-paw.) The lion faced the flag staff on both sides of the Colour. This lion design has an ancient history; it was used by Philip d'Alsace, Count of Flanders, who died in 1191. His is probably the first heraldic device known to have been used on a shield, being introduced in 1164 and carried at the start of the Third Crusade of 1189. Interestingly, the designer of this Colour chose to depict the lion in an angular, stylised form, rather than the more natural form used on the arm shield worn by Flemish volunteers on their tunics. However, this angular representation of the lion certainly filled the field of the flag.

The flag was edged on three sides with equal, alternating portions of black and yellow tufted fringe; there appear to be 18 black portions along the upper and lower edges and 16 black portions along the fly edge. The flag was attached to the bamboo staff by



five white cloth loops, doubtless each was fastened to the staff, probably being nailed in position. The staff was quite long, made in two sections joined by a silvered metal collar located on the staff between the two lower loops of the Colour. The finial appears to have remained constant, and took the form of a small halbard.

The fate of this flag is not known; it was still in use in August 1943, and may well have survived the war.

D2: Flag of Den Norske Legion

This was probably the simplest of all the flags and Colours used by foreign volunteer contingents. It consisted of the National Flag of Norway with the yellow cloth letters 'DEN NORSKE LEGION' appliquéd in a shallow arc across the upper portion of both faces of the flag. It is apparent that the flag used by the Legion was made of normal flag bunting. It was attached at four points to a wooden flag staff, made in two parts joined by a metal collar. The finial took the form of a lance head, assumed to be in yellow metal. The flag was decorated with a simple length of gold-coloured tasselled cording.

Information as to when this flag was introduced and its fate has so far not come to light.

D3: Colour of the 1st 'Viken Bataljon' of the Norwegian Legion

The National Arms of Norway were chosen as the emblem to be displayed on this battalion Colour. The golden lion rampant, crowned and holding in its forepaws the golden battleaxe of St. Olaf – the patron saint and King of Norway who died in 1030 – was placed on the bright red field. Embroidered below the lion in letters of gold was the legend 'VIKEN BATALJON' (Viking Battalion). The fly to this Colour had a shallow cut-out 'V' section. The Colour was double sided, with the lion facing to the staff on both sides. On the reverse side appeared the motto 'Alt for Norge' (All for Norway) together with the dates of five battles fought by the Norwegians between 1808 and 1814.

The Colour was unfringed, and was fastened to a smooth wooden staff that could be dismantled into two halves. The finial was similar to that used on the

The Freikorps Danmark flag being paraded to the Hamburg-Langehorn SS barracks.



The first model LVF Colour, believed to have been photographed somewhere on the Eastern Front.

Legion Flag, a simple lance head thought to be in yellow metal. It is possible that yellow tasselled cords were used with this Colour, but so far no photographic evidence has proved this to be so. Neither has it been possible to establish the size of this item. Photographic research clearly shows it to be wider than it was taller, and it was probably 70cm high by 85cm long.

The date of introduction of this Colour is not known, nor are its fate or whereabouts.

D4: Colour for the 1st Police Company from the Norwegian Legion

In September or early October 1942 the first of the four Norwegian Police Companies was presented with a Colour by Vidkund Quisling before departing for Germany. (Photographic evidence proves that at least the 2nd Police Company received their Colour; it is therefore likely that both the 3rd and 4th Companies were also presented with a Colour¹). The Colour consisted of a square of bright red silk (actual size not known) on which the words 'POLITKOMPANIET' and 'DEN NORSKE LEGION' appeared as two lines of gold lettering above and below the central motif. The motif consisted of a stylised eagle – in imitation of the German eagle – clutching in its talons the sun cross emblem² of the type used in a variety of forms

throughout Quisling's Nasjonal Samling movement. The yellow sun cross was surrounded by four sprigs of yellow-coloured oakleaves, complete with acorns. The obverse of this Colour (and the other Police Company Colours) is not known. In all probability it may have been a repeat design.

The red silk was edged on three sides with a fringe of twisted gold strands; the fourth side was fastened to the wooden staff by a vertical line of 17 equally spaced nails, reinforced along their length with a narrow strip of flat, gold-coloured braiding. The finial consisted of a lance point around the shaft, onto which was tied a length of gold cord, finished with twin gold-coloured tassels.

E1: Colour for the Finnish Volunteer Battalion of the Waffen-SS

On 15 October 1941, a month after the Finnish SS Freiwilligen Bataillon 'Nordost' had been renamed as Finnisches Freiwilligen Bataillon der Waffen-SS, the Finns were presented with a Colour. The Finnish Military Attaché in Berlin, Col. Walter Horn, presented the Colour at Gross Born on the Baltic coast. Col. Horn was a former member of the Finnish Jäger Battalion in the Prussian Army during the Great War.

The Colour was very distinctive. It consisted of a square flag of Finland, a broad light blue cross on a white field. In the centre of the blue cross was placed a bright red square, edged with a narrow yellow border. On this red square appeared the golden Lion of Finland, facing the staff, and trampling upon the silver scimitar of Russia. The lion was rampant, crowned, and holding in its gauntleted right forepaw a silver sword. Its right foreleg was bowed and in armour. (Technically this was not the Finnish coat of arms, since the red field was square and not shaped as a 'shield', and the plain red field was not strewn with the nine white roses.)

In the centre of each of the four white quarters was an emblem. Clockwise from the top left corner they were: silver SS runes set on a black square; the Finnish Cross of Liberty; the commemorative cross (the 'Finnisches Jäger Kreuz') of the Finnischen Jäger Bataillon 27 (Königliches Preussisches Reserve-Jäger-Bataillon Nr.27); and a representation of the German Iron Cross.

The same design appeared on the reverse of this

¹ The 2nd Police Company Colour displayed the same emblem as the 1st Company. The lettering was 'POLITKOMPANIET' above the central motif and 'DEN NORSKE LEGION' below.

² This yellow NS emblem with its bright red background was 'borrowed' from the sun cross emblem of St. Olaf of Norway.



At a ceremony on 27 August 1943 in la Cour des Invalides in Paris, marking the second anniversary of the formation of the LVF the Legion received a new

Colour; it was presented by Gen. Bridoux, Secretary of State for War in the Petain government, to Capt. Demessine of the LVF.

Colour, with the Finnish lion facing to the staff.

The Colour was bordered on three sides with a fringe of gold-coloured strands. The cloth was fastened to a black polished wooden staff. It was nailed in position along the front edge, the exact number of nails used is unknown. The staff was capped with a gold-coloured cast-metal finial depicting the Finnish lion facing to the front in the same attitude as featured on the centre of the Colour.

Photographs have survived that show this Colour on the day it was presented, when it was also used to symbolically swear-in the men of the Volunteer Battalion. However, nothing has come to light as to its fate after October 1941. It may well have survived

the war, as the battalion was officially stood down on 1 June 1943 and its surviving members re-enlisted into the Finnish army; they may well have taken this Colour with them on their return to Finland – however, this is pure speculation.

Ez: Flag for the SS-Heimwehr Danzig

The Danzig SS Home Defence Battalion received a special flag on 18 August 1939; it was ceremonially presented by Albert Forster, Gauleiter of Danzig, to the battalion commander, SS-Obersturmbannführer Götze. The flag had a very brief existence; the formation of the battalion had only been completed in July 1939, and it was disbanded in November of the same year. The fate of this flag and its whereabouts are unknown.

This impressive flag had a bright red silk field in the centre of which was a large white disc, edged just inside its circumference with a wide black circle. Set centrally on the circle and standing on its point was a black swastika, the lower arm of which was open to the staff. The edges of the swastika had silver and black fimbriations. Placed on the centre of the swastika was a silver death's head, complete with lower jaw, facing towards the flag pole. (The death's head – which was also worn on the battalion's right collar patches – was that of the type associated with the Allgemeine-SS and SS-Totenkopfverbände.)

Emanating from the edge of the central disc, in a style reminiscent of certain Luftwaffe Colours, were four black wedges. These reached into the four corners of the flag, being slightly larger at the corner ends than at their base next to the central disc. Each black wedge was edged in silver and each bore a design. On the lower right and upper left wedges the design consisted of the double SS runes in silver, and on the two opposite wedges were the arms of the City of Danzig. (I have chosen to show these in their correct colours, i.e. with the crosses patée in gold, although some postwar sources show them as being all silver.)

It is believed that the reverse of this flag was of the same design as the obverse, with the Totenkopf facing towards the staff.

The flag was bordered along three sides with a silver fringe; the fourth side had six metal rings sewn to the silk of the flag. Through these rings passed the polished black wood staff, the point of which was

tipped with the normal bayonet-type finial used on all SS battalion flags.

E3: Flag of the Danish SS-Schalburg Korpset

The flag of the Danish SS-Schalburg Corps was strikingly simple. It consisted of a black field (dimensions not known), set square in the centre of which was a large white mobile swastika. In the canton were placed the State Arms of Denmark, consisting of a yellow shield (minus its crown) on which was displayed three blue lions passant, all with golden crowns. Strewn across the yellow field were nine red hearts. We can only speculate as to when this flag was introduced, by whom and on what occasion, and on its eventual fate.

E4: Regimental Colour of the 1st Grenadier Regiment of the Estonian Legion

This regiment was known to possess a Colour, but precise details as to its size and certain aspects of its colouring have not yet been established; neither is it known when the Colour was presented. It resides today in the Estonian Archives in Lakewood, New Jersey, USA.

The Colour was double sided, the reverse being illustrated here. This displayed the horizontal tri-colour in the national colours of light blue over black over white. In the centre of the field, slightly offset to the upper edge, were placed the state arms of Estonia partially surrounded by two branches of golden oakleaves. The Colour was edged around three sides with a silver fringe. The cloth was attached to its wooden staff by the selvedge on the unfringed fourth side, this was wrapped around the staff to form a tunnel and, presumably, nailed into position. The staff itself was capped with a simple, narrow, four-edged spearpoint. Tied around the shaft of this finial was a length of silver tasselled cording. These double lengths of cord, unlike those of most flags that had similar decorations, did not hang free; the cords, just above the tassels, were restrained against the staff at a position in line with the lower fringe.

The obverse side (not illustrated here) had a field of black. Covering most of this field were letters, emblems and wording thought to be of silver. In the

centre of the Colour was placed the emblem chosen to represent the Estonian Legion, an armoured arm bowed and holding a drawn sword. Within the crook of the arm was the stylised letter 'E' standing for Estonia – the emblem used, in almost identical form, on the collar patches of Estonian SS troops. Slightly above this central emblem and on either side were the capital letters 'E.' and 'L.', standing for 'Eesti Leegioni' or Estonian Legion. On either side of the central motif were what appeared to be sprigs of pine needles, probably worked in green silks and detailed in silver. Along the lower edge of the obverse side appeared the legend '1.GREN.RÜGEMENT' (1st Grenadier Regiment).

F1: Flag of the Latvian Volunteer Legion

This flag was without doubt the simplest of all those used by the non-German volunteers; it was (and still is) the national flag of Latvia. It was a horizontal tribar (i.e. a flag of three panels but only showing two colours) of dark crimson over white over dark crimson, the white portion being just one-fifth the width of the hoist. The flag of Latvia is of considerable antiquity and is said to have existed in the 13th century.

F2: Flag of the Frikorps Danmark

The national flag of Denmark (in continuous use since the 13th century and believed to be the oldest flag in the world still used) was chosen as the 'Corps



The second model LVF Colour clearly showing the obverse inscribed with the Legion's battle honours.



On 27 August the troops of the LVF – wearing their German Army uniforms, with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and presumably with their band playing – marched along the Champs-Élysées away from the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where a special service of dedication had taken place. In the vanguard of the marching column was the Colour party parading the second model LVF Colour. Behind the Colour party and its escort can be seen the three LVF battalion fanions.

Flag' to be used by the Freikorps Danmark. The Danish 'Dannebrog', consisting of a simple white cross on a bright red field, had the addition of the white lettered words 'Frikorps Danmark' emblazoned in its canton. These same words, spelt in the Danish manner, also appeared in the canton on the reverse. The flag was unfringed. It was attached to a wooden staff by a single row of 21 nails, reinforced with a strip of braiding and nailed along the left side of the flag cloth. The finial was a voided frame shaped in the outline of a broad, ornate spearhead.

This flag had been presented to the first contingent of Danish volunteers just prior to their leaving Denmark for their training area in Germany on 19 July 1941. Its fate is unknown.

F3: Flag of the 369th (Croat) Infantry Division

The obverse (illustrated here) consisted of a horizontal tricolour in the national colours of Croatia, red over white over blue. Central on the white portion were placed the wartime arms of Croatia: the red and white checkered shield of the Croats surmounted by an intricate golden spiral design, containing the initial letter 'U' in blue standing for 'Ustaše', the name given to the political movement founded by Ante Pavelić, the leader (Poglavnik) of Croatia. Placed around these arms in a broken circle of gold-coloured letters was the legend 'STO BOG DA' and

'I SREĆA JUNAČKA', which translates as 'By the grace of God and the deeds of Heroes'. In the corner of the canton was placed, in gold numbers, '369'. The flag was edged along three sides with a series of small alternating red and white active wedges on a border of blue cloth.

The same coloured border appeared on the reverse side, which was white with a large central golden motif created from the entwined letters 'A' & 'P', the initials of Ante Pavelić. This monogram was surrounded by a broken circle of golden lettering 'ZA POGLAVNIKA I ZA DOM', 'For the Leader and the Fatherland'.

The wooden staff was produced in two sections joined by a bulbous knuckle. The finial was a silver spear-pointed frame with a twisted cording design, containing a horned goat standing on its hind legs and holding a trident. The use of a goat as their emblem was undoubtedly a reference to the medieval hero Skanderbeg.

F4: Colour for the Free India Legion

The exact date when the 'Azad Hind' Legion received their Colour has not yet been established. Captions to photographs taken in November 1943 showing the Colour paraded indoors during a special gathering held in Berlin refer to it as being 'der neuen Fahne der Indischen Nationalregierung'. The

Colour was almost certainly presented during, or at the completion of, the original period of military training at Königsbruck near Dresden. It may well have been presented to coincide with the first occasion, in September 1942, when the Indian troops took an oath of loyalty to Adolf Hitler, to fight for the freedom of India and their leader (Netaji) Subhas Chandra Bose. Alternatively it might have been presented to mark their departure for duty at Beverloo in Holland, at Easter 1943. Whatever the occasion, it is safe to assume that the Colour was in use some time in 1943.

The Colour was probably manufactured in Germany. It was slightly rectangular in shape, being taller than it was broad, but the exact dimensions are not known. The saffron, white and green horizontal tricolour design was the same for both the reverse and the obverse sides. The Colour was fringed on three sides with gold.

The central motif placed on a broad white panel was a Bengal tiger in a naturalistic attitude of springing, facing towards the staff. The upper saffron panel displayed the Indian word 'AZAD', the lower green panel bore the Indian word 'HIND', which translates as 'Free India'. Both these coloured portions were of equal depth, and the lettering was in gold.

The silk Colour was attached to its black polished wooden staff down the right side by a vertical row of 40 gilt nails, reinforced with a strip of braiding placed between the silk selvedge and the nail heads. The staff had a simple spearhead finial, to which was tied a length of gold tasselled cording. Interestingly, there was a metal collar that was fitted to the staff just below the lower fringe. If this feature followed the practice employed on German military Colours then it was almost certainly a 'Bataillonsring', and presumably it would have been engraved with the name of the Indian Legion.

The fate of this particular Colour is not known. Assuming that it had been taken with the Indian troops when they undertook military service in Holland and was with them in France, and further assuming it was still with them during their withdrawal to Germany, it may well have been taken from them by British Intelligence when the Indians were finally overrun and taken prisoner on the Swiss border in the area of Bodensee in May 1945.



On 6 November 1943 a special ceremony was held at the Hotel Kaiserhof in Berlin to mark the creation of the provisional Indian National Government. It is believed that the speaker is the Indian journalist A.C.N. Nambiar, a

confidant of Chandra Bose and, when the latter left Germany for Japanese-occupied Singapore, recognised as the deputy leader. The 'Azad Hind' Colour was paraded during this ceremony.

G1 & G2: First model regimental Colour for the Légion des Volontaires Français

During its existence the French Volunteer Legion possessed two distinct Legion Colours. The cost of producing the first model was met by private subscription, and although superficially resembling a French regimental Colour it was not of the regulation French Army pattern. The Colour was paraded publicly by the first detachment of 'Permissionnaires' of the LVF (literally, soldiers who possess written permission) at the Paris Gare du Nord main-line railway station on the occasion of their departure for service on the Eastern Front.

Both sides displayed the French tricolour, blue (next to the staff), white and red in equal-width vertical panels. Set centrally across the field was the gold-embroidered legend LÉGION DES VOLONTAIRES; on the face of the reverse, also in gold letters, were the words HONNEUR ET PATRIE – the legend borne on French regimental Colours. The silk Colour was edged around with a

gold fringe. The selvedge was wrapped around the polished wooden staff (apparently not blue, in French Army style, but black) and nailed in position on the leading edge of the staff by a vertical line of 16 gilt nails, reinforced with a strip of gold-coloured braiding. The staff could be dismantled into two halves for transport, these were joined by a metal collar positioned below the level of the lower fringe.

Tied around the shaft of the gold-covered spearhead finial was a large bow of wide silk tricolour ribbon, the ends finished with a fringe of gold strands.

Photographs reproduced in this book show that this Colour was taken to the Eastern Front. Its ultimate fate remains unknown.

G3 & G4: Second model regimental Colour for the LVF

What has become known as the 'second model' Colour (fanion) for the French Volunteer Legion was presented on 27 August 1943 to mark the occasion of



the unit's second anniversary, during a ceremony in the Cour d'Honneur at the Hôtel des Invalides, Paris, by Gen. Bridoux, Secretary of State in the French Government (whose son was serving with the LVF). The Colour was of the 1879 regulation pattern for all French Army regiments with only slight modifications, from which the inference must be drawn that the Government considered the LVF to be a regiment of the French Army.

The Colour measured 90cm square, excluding the gold fringe, which was 5cm deep and was composed of 320 strands of bullion. Both the obverse and reverse displayed the colours of France in three vertical bands of pure silk: blue (next to the staff), white and red. Sewn around all four edges on each side of the Colour, both next to the golden fringe and along the selvedge edge, was a narrow band of gold braiding. The inscriptions were hand-painted in gold with shading of dark brown. At each of the four corners on both sides was embroidered a wreath of oak and laurel leaves; these normally encircled the regimental number on French regimental Colours, but in the case of the LVF they were left unnumbered. The ribbons tied around the base of the wreaths in the two lower corners lay towards the corners of the Colour, whereas the tips of the two upper wreaths faced into the upper corners.

Set centrally on the obverse of the Colour in the area encompassed by the four wreaths were the six lines of the painted inscription LA FRANCE au 1er RÉGIMENT DE LA LÉGION DES VOLONTAIRES FRANÇAIS. On the reverse in a corresponding position appeared the hand-painted legend HONNEUR ET PATRIE, and below this the LVF battle honours: 1941-1942 DJUKOWO and 1942-1943 BÉRÉSINA.

The Colour was fastened to a blue-painted varnished wooden staff by two sets of three gilt nails. Each set was hammered into the staff around the top and bottom edge of the Colour's selvedge. The bottom of the staff had a small rounded metal ferrule, unlike the leather sabots used on the wooden poles of French regimental Colours. The top of the staff was

Capt. Pelzer, a regional inspector of the LVF, receives the fanion for the Legion's Staff College from the hands of Ambassador de Brinon, at

the Place Stanislas, Nancy, 17 July 1943. This photograph shows clearly the obverse side of the fanion displaying the Arms of Jeanne d'Arc.

fitted with a gilt pike head 38cm high; this was similar to the pike heads carried on French regimental Colours, except that in place of the letters R.F. (Republic Française) the face of the LVF oval medallion carried what appear to be crossed antique cannon barrels on both sides.

The silken cravat with longitudinal stripes of blue, white and red was attached to the pike head by being threaded through a gilt ring fitted to the shaft of the pike head. This cravat was 1m long and unlike French Army regimental Colour cravats, bore no wreathed numbers; the ends were trimmed with a deep golden fringe.

It is more than likely that this Colour has survived the war. Its status as a regimental Colour of the Army of France, albeit of an unusual nature, has probably saved it from destruction, and it might well be preserved in a French military archive or museum away from public view.

Fanions of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the LVF

Each of the three battalions of the LVF was presented with a fanion (Standard). It is believed that these Standards, 60cm square, were all presented at about the time the Legion received its first Colour. Although not illustrated in the colour plates section, a contemporary drawing of the 1st Battalion fanion showing both the obverse and reverse sides appears on page 13.

The 2nd Battalion displayed a motto on its reverse side, *MARCHE OU CRÈVE* (March or Die). On the obverse it displayed the title *2eme COMPAGNIE*, below which was the word *BRAVOURE* (Bravery), with the initial letters LVF placed diagonally across the corner of the canton.

The obverse of the 3rd Battalion fanion bore *3eme COMPAGNIE* above the word *QUANDMÊME* (all the same) with the initial letters LVF set diagonally in the canton. The design used on the reverse is not known; nor are the colours used for the fields or the lettering for both the 2nd and 3rd Battalions.

The fanion for the LVF Joan of Arc Staff College paraded in the Place Stanislas, Nancy. Just about visible is the reverse

side of the fanion with its Napoleonic eagle and tricolour shield.

H1 & H2: Standard for the École des Cadres of the LVF

The École des Cadres of the Legion possessed a special standard. Monsieur de Brinon, the Vichy government's Ambassador to the German authorities in occupied Paris, received the Flag of Honour offered to him by the Friends of the Vosges of the LVF during a ceremony on 17 July 1943 at the Place Stanislas in the town of Nancy. The obverse (H1) had a pale blue field on which were displayed the arms of Jeanne d'Arc. These consisted of a short broadsword with its hilt downwards supporting on its point a golden open crown flanked on either side by a golden fleur-de-lis. (Letters of nobility and the name Du Lis were granted by Charles VII of France in December 1429 to the brothers of Joan of Arc, with the illustrated arms.) The reverse (H2) displayed, on a pale blue field, an eagle bearing on its breast a tricolour shield surmounted by the word FRANCE; emanating from the base of the shield were four lightning bolts striking downwards.





Members of the German Field Police admire the Colour for the 2nd Battalion of the Spanish Regiment 'Pimentel'.

The Standard was attached to a wooden staff shorter than that used for the LVF Colour, with a rounded metal ferrule and a finial in the shape of a spear point.

Spanish Military Colours

Spanish troops who served as volunteers, initially in the German-numbered Spanish infantry regiments of the Blue Division and later with the Spanish Volunteer Legion, were permitted to carry their own peculiar flags. The flag used by the Blue Division was that of Spain with the addition of the State Arms placed centrally on the red, yellow, red horizontal tribar. It is the practice of the Spanish Army to use regimental and battalion flags and Colours of a prescribed size and design. The battalions of the various regiments of the Blue Division, however, each had their own distinctive Colour, which displayed a variety of designs and colouring, no two Colours being the same. This situation arose when the division was being recruited; the municipalities of the different Spanish cities where the volunteers were assembled, and some state organisations including the Falangist Party, offered flags to these first groups of volunteers. Whereas the designs used on these Colours are known, mainly because the items them-

selves today reside in Spanish military museums and private collections, information regarding their precise dates of introduction is not readily available¹.

H3: Colour for the 2nd Battalion, 262nd (Pimentel) Infantry Regiment of the Spanish Volunteer Division

The 'Pimentel' Regiment, under the command of Col. Pedro Pimentel Zayas, was recruited in Valladolid, Burgos and La Coruña. The 262nd Regiment served with the Blue Division on the Eastern Front until the division was withdrawn in the autumn of 1943, and on its return to Spain was disbanded. Photographs indicate that the regiment carried their own distinctive Colour prior to leaving the training area at Grafenwöhr for active service in Russia. Exact dimensions are unknown, as is the design on the reverse side.

The obverse of the Colour was a square of unfringed yellow cloth. The central design displayed the 1938 pattern of the State Arms of Spain. Positioned over the head of the Spanish eagle was a curved line of black lettering, DIVISION

¹ I have been informed that the Brotherhood of Blue Division Veterans plan to publish in 1994 a full-colour Spanish-language booklet on the flags of the Blue Division and the Blue Legion, containing as much information about these Colours as can be researched.

ESPAÑOLA DE VOLUNTARIOS. Along the base of the Colour below the State Arms were two rows of black letters, REGIMIENTO PIMENTEL II BATALLON. The Colour was attached to a short wooden staff by five cloth loops. The finial was a white-metal casting of the Falangist emblem of five arrows passing through a yoke. Tied around the shaft of the finial was a length of ribbon in the national colours of Spain, tied in a large bow.

H4: Colour for the 3rd Battalion of the Spanish Volunteer Legion

This shows the obverse side. The vertical tribar of red, black and red was a distinctive feature of a number of Falangist flags and Colours. The central design of a shield in the national colours of Spain reflects the design of the national arm shield worn by the Spanish volunteers on the left upper sleeve of their German uniforms. The curved line of gold-yellow letters proclaimed 3a BANDERA, literally '3rd Flag', standing for 3rd Battalion. (The battalions of the Spanish Volunteer Legion were called Banderas, literally 'flags' after the military tradition accorded to the élite Spanish Foreign Legion, and also maintained today by the battalions of the Spanish Parachute Brigade.) The obverse side of this Colour (not illustrated) displayed the national colours of Spain as a horizontal tribar with a 'small' trophy of arms consisting of crossed rifles with bayonets fixed overlaying a red-tasselled halbard.

Further Reading

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Notes sur les planches en couleur

A1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Des étendards 'Allemagne réveille-toi' furent présentés aux quatre régiments principaux de la SS-Verfügungstruppe. La seule différence entre eux se situe sur la plaque nominative. Ils étaient identiques aux étendards Allgemeine-SS et SA Standarte. Ceux des régiments 'Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler', 'Deutschland' 'Germania' et 'Der Führer' furent présentés en 1933, 1935, 1936 et 1938 respectivement. L'étendard du 'Leibstandarte', qui restait normalement au QG du Bataillon Ersatz de l'unité, fut capturé au printemps 1945 et - moins son étoffe - fut

Farbtafeln

A1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Die Standarten 'Deutschland Erwache' wurden den vier dienstältesten Regimentern der SS-Verfügungstruppe überreicht und unterschieden sich lediglich durch die Namensplaketten. Sie waren mit den Standarten der Allgemeinen SS und der SA identisch. Die Standarten der Regimenter 'Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler', 'Deutschland', 'Germania' und 'Der Führer' wurden jeweils 1933, 1935, 1936 und 1938 überreicht. Die Standarte der 'Leibstandarte', die normalerweise im Hauptquartier des Ersatzbataillons der Einheit aufbewahrt wurde, wurde im

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**Avec annotations en français sur les
planches en couleur.
Mit Aufzeichnungen auf
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